

Major leads the cheers for Patten as party conference opens



Platform star: John Major, attending his first conference as Tory leader, shows his appreciation of the speech by Conservative chairman Chris Patten at Blackpool yesterday

Hurd seeks to calm Tories' fears over federal Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

DOUGLAS Hurd sought yesterday to reassure both sides of the Conservative party with his vision of Britain's future in Europe. The country would make a success of its role within the Community, he said, but it would not be forced into a federal straitjacket.

that a single currency was inevitable. Mrs Thatcher's aides were meanwhile denying that she planned to lead a campaign against any compromise on monetary union.

secretary argues that since Parliament will have a vote on the Maastricht deal before an election and any legislation consequent upon the deal will come after the election, there is no need for a referendum.

launching a campaign for a referendum before any changes were made to the Treaty of Rome.

campaign against a single currency, and those rumours sent the pound to its lowest level within the European exchange-rate mechanism since February 14.

Attack on US over juvenile execution

By DAVID WATTS

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ONLY Iraq and Iran legally sentence more offenders aged less than 18 to execution than the United States, and the leader of the free world is therefore flouting international standards, Amnesty International said yesterday.

Amnesty, which has campaigned for years against capital punishment, says in a report that Washington has signed agreements outlawing the execution of juvenile offenders but not ratified them.

Executing adults is cruel and inhuman and has to stop. Executing juvenile offenders in particular should no longer be tolerated, the report said.

The United States has carried out executions on four people sentenced while they were juveniles since 1985. The figures for Iran and Iraq are not known with any accuracy and could be anywhere from dozens to hundreds.

More disturbing is evidence that many of those executed had histories of mental illness that was never presented at their trials. In several cases defence lawyers were unable to obtain independent psychiatric evaluations of their charges due to lack of funds.

The only other countries to have executed people under the age of 18 in the last 10 years are Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Barbados, which has recently raised the minimum age to 18.

Ninety young people aged between 15 and 17 at the time of a crime have been sentenced to death in America since the 1970s. Amnesty says most such young people come from deprived backgrounds and that many slipped through the net of legal safeguards designed to keep all but the most dangerous criminals off death row.

Ceasefire as Croats declare independence

By GEORGE BROCK AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SUDDEN calm returned to Croatia yesterday as the latest EC-negotiated ceasefire took hold and the Croatian parliament met to declare its full independence. Neighbouring Slovenia took a similar step.

ceasefires, but most blame lay with the federal army, he said. Mr Hurd said Yugoslavia could not be held together by force, and "those republics which decide for independence will get it".

The Croatian parliament said Croatia would cut all ties with the Yugoslav federation, whose laws were no longer valid on Croatian soil.

The US State Department announced the withdrawal of all personnel from its consulate in Zagreb, and warned American citizens to leave the country.

Some Croatian officials predicted Zagreb would reject the latest Serbian ceasefire offer. But EC ceasefire monitors said there were signs the new truce might hold.

The Croatian parliament met at a secret location following the bombing on Monday of the presidential palace in Zagreb by Yugoslav air force planes. Belgrade called on



Croatian leaders to lift the blockade of Serbian garrisons in the republic. The federal army said if Croatia refused the army would continue its offensive.

Zagreb has become quieter, although rocket fire was reported in other parts of Croatia such as Osijek. A Croatian government spokesman said that as long as the federal army was in Croatia it could not stand down its own forces.

The Yugoslav army silenced its guns after the latest offer to stop the conflict - the seventh since June. Croatian officials fear the terms could increase the federal troops' already considerable advantage.

As the EC deadline ran out at midnight on Monday, the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, agreed to talk to Serbian representatives. A full session of the Croatian parliament was held on Tuesday.

Japan bans broker

By NEIL BENNETT

NOMURA Securities, the world's largest stockbroker, has been banned from share trading in Japan for up to six weeks by the Japanese government for illegal share pushing.

Nomura's two most senior executives in London, who are both thought to earn more than £300,000, have agreed to take 20 per cent pay cuts for three months. All Nomura's main board directors worldwide are taking pay cuts for up to a year.

The firm admitted yesterday that it had excessively recommended shares in Tokai Corporation, a railway company, in 1989, in violation of securities law. Most of its share trading operations in Japan will close on Monday.

The Japanese punishments extend to other main stockbrokers.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

NEEDLESS DEATH



Emma Brodie, aged 11, was killed, for no reason, in a shopping centre by Carol Ann Barratt, who had been released from an infirmary two days earlier. Peter Barnard examines the tragedy and its implications for public safety and the mentally ill. Page 15

GUMMER'S GAME



What exactly is the political role of Peter Gummer - founder of Shandwick, the world's largest public relations business, brother of John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and friend of Chris Patten, Tory party chairman? Page 16

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in The Times' 12-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.

Wakeham plays down pit report

By RICHARD DUCE

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, last night moved to calm fears over the coal industry after the next election. A leaked report had suggested 44,000 miners would lose jobs and only 14 out of 57 pits would survive.

the proposed cuts were ludicrous. NM Rothschild has now put its initial proposals before the energy department. Last night a department spokesman refused to discuss what he called "private consultation documents".

Harworth and Welbeck in Nottinghamshire; and Wistow, Stillingfleet, Riccall, Kellingley, Maltby, Rossington and Frickley in Yorkshire. There would be no pits worth operating in South Wales and the northwest.

Mr Wakeham did not deny the existence of the preliminary findings of a report on privatisation by the merchant bankers NM Rothschild, but said accounts of the report were speculative. Frank Dobson, the Labour energy spokesman, had demanded a government statement saying

The bankers' initial conclusions, leaked to the International Coal Report and reported in The Times, names the only pits to survive under a self-off as Longannet in Scotland; Wearmouth in the northeast; Dew Mill, near Coventry; Ollerton, Thoresby,

Last night Mr Wakeham said: "Rothschilds are not reporting on the future of individual pits. No pits will be closed because of privatisation. The future size of British Coal's operations will depend on the size of the UK coal market and the share of that market that they can win."

Church practises what Thatcher teaches

By RUTH GLEDHILL



THE spirit of financial self-reliance, as enshrined in the "opt-out" philosophy of the Thatcher years, is taking hold in the Church of England. Just as grant-maintained schools and trust hospitals are taking charge of their own financial affairs, the Church's Chelmsford diocese is aiming to become self-supporting by the year 2000.

million on stipends and £53 million on pensions. Ian Rathbone, a spokesman for the diocese, said: "We would have our own budget completely under our control so that cuts where the commissioners effectively pull the rug from under our feet, as has happened now, would not arise." He said details of the plan, such as whether the diocese would continue to contribute to the commissioners, would not become clear until at least 1993.

Chelmsford, which covers Essex and part of east London, is one of many of the church's 44 dioceses facing economies as a result of the commissioners' decision to cut their diocesan allocations by £4 million. Chelmsford is to cut 20 clergy jobs in 20 months through natural wastage. The commissioners blame the recession. The Rev Garry Bennett, Chelmsford's stewardship adviser, said:

"We want to be self-supporting in our ministry costs." The diocese would not refuse funds from the commissioners, but would no longer be dependent on them for stipends. The aim is to encourage parishioners to give according to their Christian commitment. Mr Bennett said: "We cannot go on relying on money from dead people, on what we call historic resources."

The plan, initiated by the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev John Wainwright, will be put to the diocesan synod next month. Martin Elengorn, the commissioners' general purposes secretary, said that a change in the law would be needed if a diocese decided to go it alone. "I suspect Chelmsford's aim is to ensure that, if a large hole suddenly appeared in Millbank and we disappeared, they could manage," he said.

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Fingerprints link Irishman to 1981 killings, says QC

A BOMBING campaign in 1981 that killed three people and injured several others, leaving Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, commandant general of the Royal Marines, crippled, could be linked to an Irish former television repair man, the central criminal court was told yesterday.

Desmond Ellis, aged 39, was part of the conspiracy behind the five bombings even though there was no evidence that he was ever in the country at the time, said David Jeffreys, QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Ellis denies conspiracy with Thomas Quigley, Paul Kavanagh and Gilbert McNamee to cause an explosion, and a second charge of possession of explosive between January 1, 1981, and October 27, 1983. The basis of the case against Mr Ellis centres on a cache of bomb-making equipment found near Pangbourne, Berkshire, in

October 1983, which had clear forensic links with the bombs and carried Mr Ellis's fingerprints, it was said.

"His fingerprints were found in several places, which indicate that he must have been concerned in the manufacture of some of the equipment found in that cache and the fingerprint evidence related to it forms the basis of the crown's case against him," said Mr Jeffreys.

The first bomb exploded as the First Battalion Irish Guards were returning to their quarters at Chelsea Barracks from duty at the Tower of London on October 10, 1981. As their coach passed a parked van two bombs inside exploded. Of the 35 injured, 20 were soldiers, their wounds caused mainly by nails, nuts and bolts contained inside the blast bombs. More than 11,000 nails were recovered from the scene.

A decade after an IRA bombing campaign, Lin Jenkins reports on the opening of the trial of the men accused of plotting explosions

Nora Field, a bystander, was killed immediately by the impact of a nail and John Breslin died three days later from a scalp wound.

A week later the target was General Sir Stuart Pringle, who left his home in South Croxted Road, Dulwich, south London, to drive his Volkswagen Passat to the local shops. In a statement he described the explosion which led to the loss of his right leg below the knee. "I heard a roar and saw my legs moving to the rear side of the car, then I heard the sound of falling bits and pieces, then silence. After about two seconds I heard someone shout, 'It's a bomb'."

The car bonnet ended up 60 feet away, lodged on a rooftop. "He was lucky to survive," said Mr Jeffreys. It took three quarters of an hour to cut free the still conscious victim, who had suffered appalling injuries to both legs.

Of two bombs planted in Oxford Street, London, on October 26, one exploded, killing Kenneth Howarth, an explosives officer. A man with an Irish accent had telephoned Reuters news agency warning that three bombs had been planted by the IRA and would go off in half an hour. Mr Howarth ventured into the basement of the evacuated Wimpy Bar some time after the bomb, already spotted by two policemen, had

been due to go off. "Within about two minutes of his entry there was an explosion. The pavement lifted completely in a line about four feet from the front of the building. Kenneth Howarth had been blown up by the explosion," said Mr Jeffreys.

A post-mortem examination indicated Mr Howarth had been crouched over the bomb when it exploded and was possibly touching it. Some of his tools had been taken out of his leather bag and laid on the floor ready for use.

His colleague, Peter Gurney, arrived shortly after the explosion and, knowing Mr Howarth had died, went to the second bomb planted in Debenhams department store and successfully dismantled it. No third bomb was found.

Mr Jeffreys said the next target was the then Attorney-General Sir Michael Havers (now Lord Ha-

vers). Two bombs exploded outside his flat at Wimbledon, south London. "Fortunately he and his wife were away at the time otherwise they would very likely have been killed," he said.

"The fact that there was no evidence that Desmond Ellis was in this country at the time of the explosions, nor for the period of the conspiracy makes no difference in the eyes of the law to his responsibility of membership of that conspiracy," said Mr Jeffreys.

"If there is an agreement by a number of people to possess explosives in the UK then all those who agree are in what the law calls joint possession whenever these people happen to be, in this country or not. We allege Desmond Ellis was party to the conspiracy, a member of it, or indeed in control of the explosives themselves," he said.

The hearing continues today.



Ellis: no evidence he was in country at the time

Prostitution at children's care homes

By Peter Davenport

SEXUAL abuse, prostitution and assaults on staff have been uncovered in a report into a council's 18 children's homes.

The homes could best be described as adequate and at worst dumps. In many cases, staff were simply too exhausted and lacked the proper resources to cope with the next incident, said the report commissioned by Bradford city council.

Some young people were turning to prostitution, sometimes with the active encouragement of "pimps" and in some homes children were assaulting fellow inmates, sometimes sexually.

The damning report was prepared by six experienced social workers led by Bradford council's principal solicitor after the 'pindown report' on child care abuse in Staffordshire in May this year. The health department responded to that enquiry by telling all local authorities to review procedures in their residential children's homes.

The Bradford team questioned children and staff at every home in June and

examined all records and log books. Although the report, issued yesterday and to be presented to Bradford's children's committee later this week, found no evidence of "pindown" practices, the team did say: "No control is exercised over some of the children in the homes at all. This can lead to young persons prostituting themselves, for example. It is an ironic situation because many of the children have been brought into care for being beyond the control of their parents."

The enquiry found cracked and graffiti-covered walls, broken furniture, broken locks on doors and windows and few home comforts.

Eight specific difficulties were listed, including incidents of self-mutilation, assaults on staff, criminal damage, including fires in the homes, non-attendance at school, abuse by third parties (eg pimps), assaults on other children including sexual abuse, refusals to get out of bed and barricading themselves in the homes and stealing.

London 'voice' opposed

By Douglas Broom
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

TORY council leaders in London were preparing last night to fight their party's plans for a new strategic body for the capital.

Chris Patten, the party chairman, will come under strong pressure at the Conservative conference to draw back from a commitment to a new "voice for London" from council leaders in Blackpool for tomorrow's debate on local government.

Growing discontent among grassroots Tories about public transport in London has fuelled calls for a single body to take charge of strategic planning in the capital.

Sir Paul Beresford, leader of Wandsworth, said that a new body would simply "get in the way" of boroughs which were "getting on with the job".

Existing joint arrangements on planning were adequate, he said. Other Tory leaders known to be opposed to the plan include Andrew Boff, the leader of Hillingdon in west London, who has consistently argued that councils should reduce rather than increase their control over the life of the capital.

Leading article, page 19



MICHAEL POWELL

Psychiatrist admits error over suicide inmate

By Quentin Cowdry
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AN ACUTELY depressed prisoner who committed suicide in Brixton jail in south London should not have been held for a month alone in a "strip" cell on the prison's notorious F wing, an inquest was told yesterday.

Michael Brown, a consultant psychiatrist, admitted that he had been wrong not to insist that Patrick O'Grady, aged 24, be moved to the jail's hospital ward where he would have had more company and greater freedom of movement.

"I did not think he was a serious suicide risk, but obviously that was a misjudgment," Dr Brown told Southwark coroner's court. Dr Brown said that O'Grady had preferred his strip cell to the jail's hospital, although the prisoner had ideally wanted a transfer to a general hospital.

The court was also told that O'Grady, who had a £100-a-day cocaine habit before his arrest, had been able to acquire drugs relatively easily while on remand at Wormwood Scrubs prison, in London. However, the supply had run out after he had been transferred to Brixton jail.

O'Grady, unemployed, of Bayswater, west London, who was arrested in January and charged with attempted burglary, was found hanging by a bedsheet from the window of his cell on May 27. He was the 14th man to die by hanging at the jail in two years.

Robert Cummings, O'Grady's probation officer, said that the inmate had told him that he had been consuming two grammes of cocaine a day before his arrest. Mr Cummings added: "He said being unable to get drugs was a factor in his deterioration in health." O'Grady had been shattered when told that his application to attend a drugs rehabilitation centre had been rejected.

Tim Owen, counsel for the O'Grady family, said: "Being locked up in the appalling environment of F wing at Brixton, where many disturbed prisoners shouting and making considerable noise, is probably the worst thing for someone in a depressed state."

The hearing continues today.

Ministry move aids York jobs campaign

THE agriculture ministry is to relocate one of its important headquarters divisions from the South-East to York, adding momentum to a campaign by the city to counter a projected reduction of 5,000 jobs by the end of the century.

From April 1993, it was announced yesterday, the ministry's pesticides safety division is to become an executive agency under an initiative by the government. Its main operations will be moved from central London, Guildford in Surrey, and Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

The move will bring 600 jobs to York, half of them in the relocation of existing staff and the rest through local recruitment. A further 200 "spin-off" jobs are also expected to be created. Work is expected to start on new offices next year and staff will move in during 1994.

David Pywell, director of York's development services, said yesterday that the council hoped the decision would provide a stimulus in its discussions about possible relocation with other government departments. So far, York has attracted the National Cereals Council, the Land Registry, and the agriculture ministry's central science laboratory.

Tourists misled

The Advertising Standards Authority has rebuked the Spanish Tourist Office for misleading people with a magazine advertisement saying that the northern part of the country enjoyed "ever present" sunshine. A reader complained that the region had at least 11 days of rain each month. The authority said that the tourist body had undertaken to amend the advertisement.

Danger signs

Canterbury traffic warning signals are to be installed on the Surrey stretch of the M25 this month, the transport department announced yesterday. Twenty electronic signal boards will hang above the hard shoulder and inside lane between junctions eight and 11 of the motorway spelling out accident and fog warnings, as part of improvements announced by Christopher Chope, the roads minister.

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Sax appeal: Andy Sheppard, a modern jazz saxophonist, rehearsing yesterday on Hampstead Heath, London, where he will be entertaining walkers taking part in a fund-raising event for the charity Sane on Sunday afternoon. Walk the World for Schizophrenia is a nationwide sponsored effort as part of an appeal launched by the charity's patron, the Prince of Wales, to raise £6 million.

Jail sentence of poll tax defaulter quashed

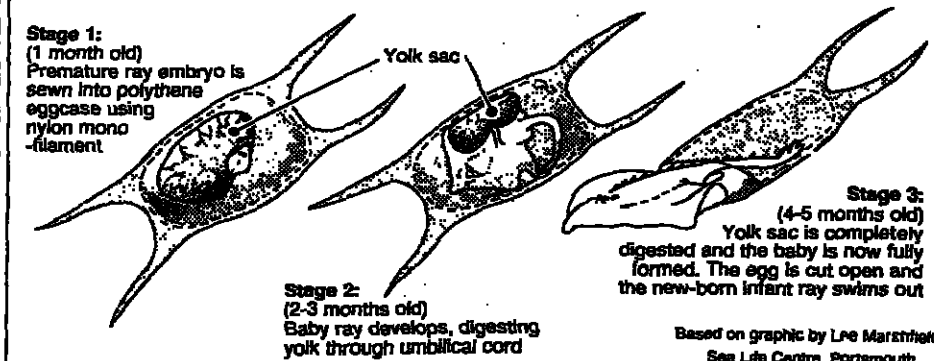
MAGISTRATES who jailed an unemployed man for failing to pay his poll tax were overruled by the High Court yesterday (Frances Gibb writes). In a judgment thought to affect many similar cases, two judges ruled that magistrates at Poole, Dorset, were wrong to imprison Stephen Benham in March, and they quashed his 30-day sentence.

The magistrates had said that Mr Benham, aged 25, of Merley, near Wimborne, was guilty of culpable neglect as he

clearly had the potential to earn money to meet his £404 debt. However, Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Potts ruled that there was no evidence to support the finding.

Mr Justice Potts said: "Before such a finding could be sustained, at the very least there would have to be clear evidence that the defendant was fit to offer to him and that he had rejected or refused that offer. There was no such evidence in this case."

MAN-MADE EGG CASE SAVES BABY FISH



Fish saved in tiny incubator

By Nick Nuttall, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

OVER the next few days, a tiny thornback ray should swim free from a man-made incubator after a unique artificial breeding experiment.

The fish, a species related to the electric ray, the skate and the shark, was born at the Sea Life Centre in Portsmouth and found floating in a tank attached only to its food or yolk sac.

Its mermaid's purse, a fibrous, dark-green sac that normally surrounds an embryonic ray and can be mistaken for seaweed, had been damaged and the fish had been born prematurely. The month-old embryo was in danger of being eaten by an older, predatory companion

and was unlikely to develop in a normal way.

In a move believed to be a world first, Lee Marshfield, a marine expert at the centre, crafted an artificial mermaid's purse from tough plastic, into which the ray embryo was placed. The plastic, which is transparent, has allowed the team to monitor the health of the baby ray, and when it is ready to swim free they will cut open the plastic purse.

In the wild, real mermaid's purses carrying embryonic rays float freely or become attached to marine plants.

After the baby ray, or "pup", has matured it can break free on its own, but the centre's ray will need help, Mr Marshfield said. Release should be in the next week or so, when the fish has eaten its yolk sac and weighs about a quarter of an ounce.

The plastic purse technique might have uses for helping to save endangered marine animals, Mr Marshfield said.

Thornback rays, *Raja clavata*, are common around the British Isles, where they are bottom feeders, living off small fish, molluscs and crustacea. They grow to about 3ft across and can exceed 30lb.

Mr Marshfield said that the centre had an active breeding programme. The fish would be on display at the centre until old enough to be taken to the Solent, after about a year.

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Marquess showed complete disregard of road traffic laws, magistrate tells court

Blandford jailed for three months after 12th driving offence

By PETER VICTOR

THE Marquess of Blandford, heir to the 11th Duke of Marlborough and a £100 million fortune, last night began his second prison sentence in five years after he was convicted of his 12th driving offence.

The Harrow-educated marquess, aged 35, whose family motto is *Faithful but Unfortunate*, was jailed for three months after Keith Hillier, chairman of the magistrates at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, said his driving record showed "a complete disregard" of road traffic laws. Blandford, who lives in a £1.1 million house on his father's Blenheim estate in Oxfordshire, was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment on each of two offences for driving while disqualified. There was no further penalty for two offences of driving without insurance, but he was banned for the fifth time since 1986 — this time for two years — and was ordered to pay £110 costs.

The court was told that the marquess was upset at the time of the offences because of marriage difficulties. The couple had separated for a time, although they were back together now. Additionally Blandford was concerned about his mother's health.

On Monday, July 8, Blandford was on his way to see his GP, Dr Ronald Bischoff, at his practice in Earl's Court, west London, for the second time in three days when he was stopped on the M40 near High Wycombe, at the wheel of a Nissan. He was in breach of a four-month driving ban.

Blandford admitted the offence and its accompanying charge of driving without insurance at an earlier hearing. He had denied the other pair of charges, which alleged he had been seen by off-duty police officers at the wheel of his Range Rover on May 27 near his estate at Wootton, Oxfordshire, but was convicted at a hearing last month.

Michael de Navarro, QC,

for the marquess, admitted it was a deplorable record, but argued: "It is the record of a persistent but minor offender." Mr de Navarro told the court: "There has never been a conviction for reckless driving or for driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. At the time Lord Blandford was extremely distressed and in an emotional state as a result of difficulties with his marriage. One of the matters that has aggravated that emotional distress is the degree of media coverage which any problems in the Blandford marriage had led to."

Mr de Navarro added that it was common knowledge that the marquess had in the past had a drug problem. Pleading for a financial penalty or community service order, Mr de Navarro said a jail sentence could have "a disastrous effect" on the marquess. "He will be in grave jeopardy of losing all he has worked for so hard over the last one and a half years."

Prosecuting the sentence, Mr Hillier said: "An increasing number of motorists are taking a chance and driving during a period of dis-

qualification. They should be warned that those who disobey the orders of the court cannot expect lenient sentences." The marquess, jailed for three months in 1986 for drugs offences, started straight ahead, his arms supporting him as he leaned heavily against the dock.

Mr de Navarro lodged appeals against sentence and against the convictions in May but his application for bail pending the appeals was refused. Blandford, dressed in a crumpled blue suit, striped shirt and tie, with a silk handkerchief in his breast pocket, was taken by police into a side office. Becky Few-Brown, his wife of 18 months, wept at the back of the court. Despite difficulties in the marriage she had accompanied her husband to all the court hearings before yesterday.

An hour and a half later, the marquess left the court building by a rear exit, ignoring questions from reporters, and was led to a police car and driven away. His wife refused to comment on the sentence and was driven away with Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, Blandford's sister.

Unfulfilled life of a confused aristocrat

AS HE began his sentence last night in a cell at Oxford prison, a Victorian jail with a severe overcrowding problem, it is unlikely that the Marquess of Blandford took comfort from the fact that he had been in jail before (Peter Victor writes).

After convictions for minor offences, which culminated in the burglary of a chemist's shop in search of drugs in 1985, he was sent to Pentonville prison for three months in January 1986, but was released after four weeks for good behaviour.

The alternatives to Oxford, however, would have been even less palatable. Bedford

prison, one of the most overcrowded in the country, or a cramped police cell. In Bedford, as at Oxford, prisoners sleep out with a chamber pot.

His three months in custody could be cut by half for good behaviour. Remission is not automatic, however, and the marquess will hope that his appeals are successful. If they fail he is likely to be transferred from Oxford, after assessment, to Highpoint open prison, near Newmarket, Suffolk.

There, or at a similar low-security establishment, he will be expected to do light work in return for relatively good conditions and freedom of move-

ment within the prison. His last stint in jail was extremely traumatic for him, according to fellow inmates. Nevertheless he was soon in trouble again and in November 1988 was given another two-year suspended sentence for possessing cocaine.

Friends hoped he would find stability after his wedding in February 1990 to Becky Few-Brown, aged 28, a nursery teacher and friend of the Duchess of York. Since their marriage his wife has been reported at least once to have moved out to stay with her mother.

Blandford has blamed his aristocratic background for his

wayward behaviour: "I do feel confused about my destiny and I have always resented having my life mapped out for me. I don't really know what to do with my life."

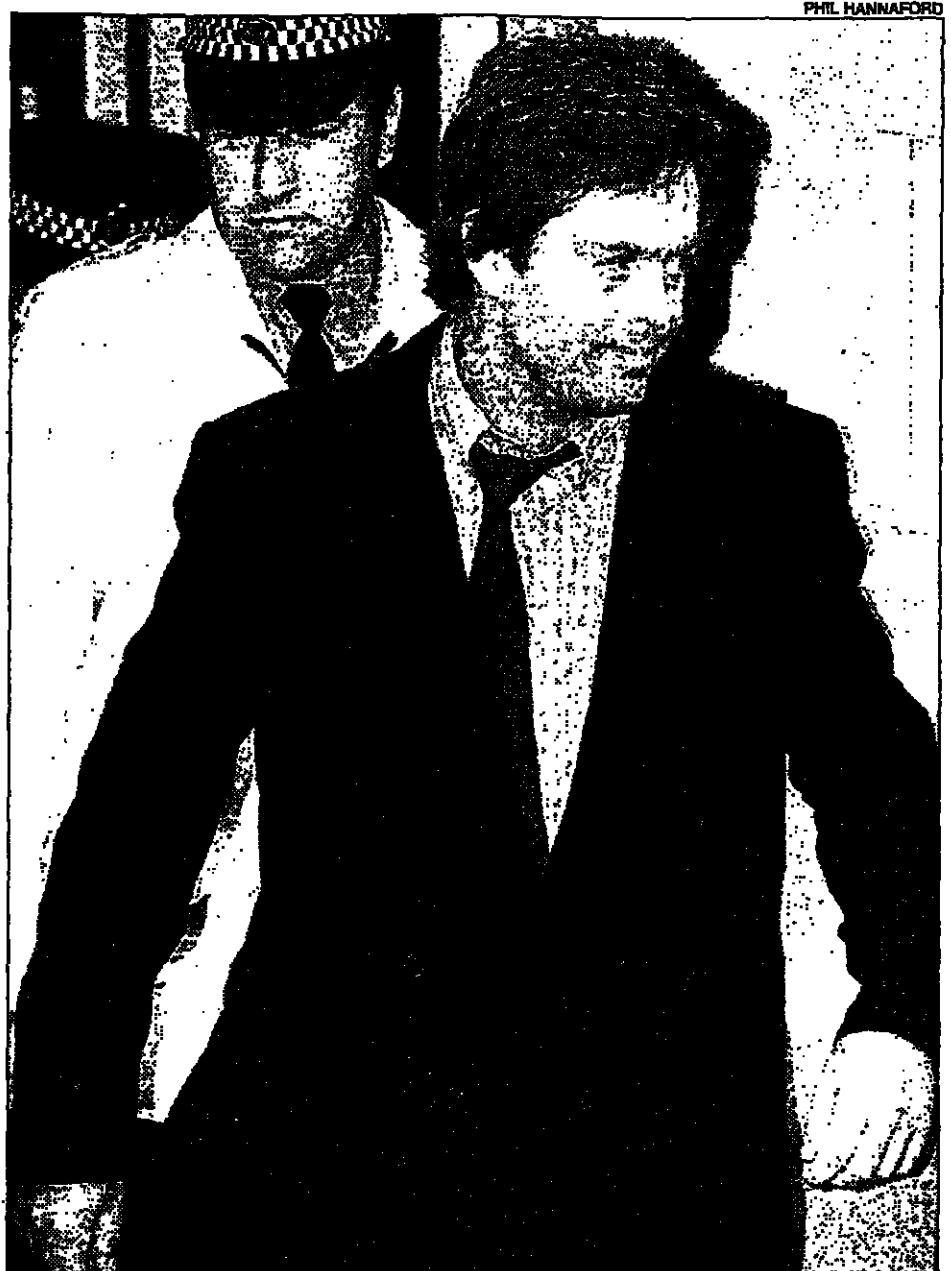
He was born Charles James Spencer-Churchill on November 24, 1955, to the then 29-year-old Marquess of Blandford, now the Duke of Marlborough. His mother is Susan Hornby, who is related to the family which owns WH Smith, the bookshop chain.

His parents divorced when he was four, which was said to have deeply affected him. He went to Harrow school and briefly attended the Royal Agricultural College, Cirence-

ster. He went to Australia to herd sheep and on his return failed to get into the army.

A spell studying to become an insurer in the City followed. It was around this time that he came into contact with cocaine and heroin. By the mid-1980s, in a four-month period, he squandered up to £20,000 on cocaine. His father and late step-sister Christina Onassis tried to force him to receive treatment in a Paris clinic but he escaped through a window. In another clinic he burned down a potting shed.

His speedy release will depend on curbing what he once called "the inherent characteristics of an addict".



Court again: the marquess, heir to a £100m fortune, arriving to hear the verdict

Fun park fined for roller coaster accident

By A STAFF REPORTER

ALTON Towers, the largest leisure theme park in Britain, was fined £1,500 yesterday over a roller coaster accident on the opening day of the summer season in March in which six people were hurt.

A division of Tussauds Group Ltd, Alton Towers, of Staffordshire, admitted a breach of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act when two cars collided above ground on a high-speed ride called The Mouse.

Magistrates at Cheadle, Staffordshire, heard the ride was shut down automatically after a wheel bolt on one of the four-seater cars worked loose but the operator, who had had only three days' training, restarted the machine by using an over-ride key without checking with other staff.

Stephen Turner, for the Health and Safety Executive, said the second car ran forward and crashed into the track. The first then rolled back and there followed a series of collisions.

Passengers trapped in the accident desperately tried to attract the operator's attention but failed.

The fire brigade was called to rescue six people who were taken to hospital suffering from whiplash and other injuries.

Mr Turner said the company had failed to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the safety of people on the ride.

John Cheetham, who appeared for Alton Towers, told the court: "The company very much regrets the accident and is very concerned for the safety of the public and its employees."

Since the accident safety procedures had been tightened, a full-time safety officer appointed and the over-ride key was now kept only by supervisory staff.

Peter Wilson, chairman of the magistrates, said Alton Towers previously had an excellent safety record but on this occasion the equipment had not been maintained as well as it should have been and the training programme for the operator had been "woefully inadequate".

Pop music sounds the knell for Welsh choirs

By TIM JONES

AFTER the débacle on the rugby field — "just as well you weren't playing the whole of Samoa" — Wales is facing another calamity with the decline of the mighty choirs through which it was known as the Land of Song.

The obituaries have already been written for rugby and pens are now being sharpened to bury the choirs, which were the other great pillar and symbol of nationhood. Vivian Fisher, president of the Association of Male Voice Choirs, estimates there could be only 20 choirs left in the principality by the end of the decade, compared with more than 100 at present, unless more young people can be enticed to join.

The reasons given for the decline are as many and varied as those offered for the sad slide of the rugby team. Mr Fisher says the decline of the coal and steel industries, television, freedom of travel from closed communities and rock and roll have all played their part. He also says the proposal to end music as a compulsory subject in schools after the age of 14 will hasten the process.

Another WAMC spokesman said: "Years ago when the chapels were in full swing, singing was the main activity in Wales. Now, youngsters can go to London to listen to a rowdy pop concert."

Alun John, one of the leading conductors in Wales, said choirs would have to change and adapt to new methods if they were to survive.

"Music teaching in schools is excellent as are youth choirs. Young people do not want to join choirs where the members cannot read music and learn parrot fashion. Conductors and choir masters must get together to see what can be done."

"The repertoire must also change. Choirs cannot go on singing 'Martyrs of the Arena' and 'Crossing the Plain' for ever."

In the Arms Park, 'Bread of Heaven' may have reached its sell-by date. It is obvious that it is also getting stale in the valleys.

Unmuzzled pit bull to be destroyed

By RAY CLANCY

MAGISTRATES yesterday ordered the humane destruction of a pit bull terrier allowed to walk the streets without a muzzle. Its owner has 21 days to appeal against the decision, which is the first time the destruction of a dog has been ordered under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Michael Abue, aged 28, of Clapham, southwest London, admitted at Camberwell mag-

istrates court that his dog was in a public place without a muzzle. He was conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay £25 prosecution costs. The offence took place at Westow Hill, Upper Norwood, on September 5, almost a month after the introduction of the act, compelling owners of dangerous dogs to muzzle their animals in public. Owners of

controlled dogs have until midnight on Saturday to notify their local police station that they wish to apply for a certificate to keep their pets. To qualify, they must arrange third party insurance, neuter their dog and arrange for a vet to identify the animal with a permanent mark. According to the Home Office, 2,600 owners have already applied but a late rush is expected.

Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, said: "There are only a few more days left. Owners who fail to complete this initial stage of the exemption process by Saturday, October 12, will not be eligible to obtain a certificate of exemption in respect of their dog."

Yvonne Wilson, owner of Britain's only Japanese tosa, one of the breeds of controlled dog, launched a protection league yesterday, aimed at helping owners affected by the legislation. "We feel that the government acted quickly without thinking the issues through," she said. "No one has told us how the insurance scheme is going to work or how much it is likely to cost. My dog Ish is going to have to be neutered, tattooed and is already muzzled. He might as well be dead."

She has organised a dog show to raise funds for taking a test case to the European Court of Human Rights. "Animals should not be destroyed just because they are regarded by the government as being dangerous," she added. The show, which will feature her dog, will take place in Wandsworth, southwest London.

Army counts the cost of divorce

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE divorce rate in the army is now rising faster than in the civilian world because of the strains of increased separation from families, according to forces' welfare associations.

They also say that marital breakdowns will rise even further once the government starts reducing the army by 40,000, because there will be fewer infantry battalions to carry out the same commitments. Senior retired officers campaigning against the planned reduction in infantry battalions from 55 to 38 under the Options for Change de-

fence review, are also emphasising the adverse effect the cuts will have on servicemen's families.

Major-General Charles Grey, controller of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families' Association (SSAFA), said yesterday that the divorce rate was at present one in three but getting worse. He said: "The divorce rate in the civilian world is reported to be one in two-and-a-half. But that is measured over a whole lifetime. The forces' rate is just based on the time spent in the services." Be-

tween 30 and 40 families were being brought back prematurely from Germany each month because of marriage breakdowns, he added.

Major-General Peter Martin, retired Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment, which is to be amalgamated with the Staffordshire Regiment, said: "In the past year, the average Cheshire soldier spent 31 weeks away from family and base. With a reduced army and the same commitments this 60 per cent rate of separation could go up to 80 per cent of each year."

Spinal fake detector goes to court

By CRAIG SETON



Durrant believes she can never work again

READINGS from a machine that is reputed to tell whether back problems are genuine or not will be considered by a British court for the first time today.

Information from the orthopaedic device, the Isostation B-200, will be presented at Birmingham High Court on behalf of Annette Durrant, aged 34, who is seeking more than £200,000 damages for injuries she received when the horse she was riding was involved in an accident with a car in 1987.

Lance Ashworth, opening the case yesterday for Mrs Durrant, a former secretary from Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, said she suffered extreme disability and pain in her lumbar region and added: "This machine

evaluates whether people are faking it or not and is used for rehabilitation."

He told Judge Richard Curtis, QC, that the medical reports had been prepared to support Mrs Durrant's case by Dr Hugo Kitchen, an orthopaedic physician from Stratford-upon-Avon, based on findings from the Isostation. A video film would be available to show how the machine worked.

Mrs Durrant is claiming damages from the insurers of Alexander McDonald, from Coventry, who admit liability for the car crash, but dispute the level of damages. They are understood to be offering about £120,000. They will dispute the evidence from the Isostation and other medical evidence presented on behalf of Mrs

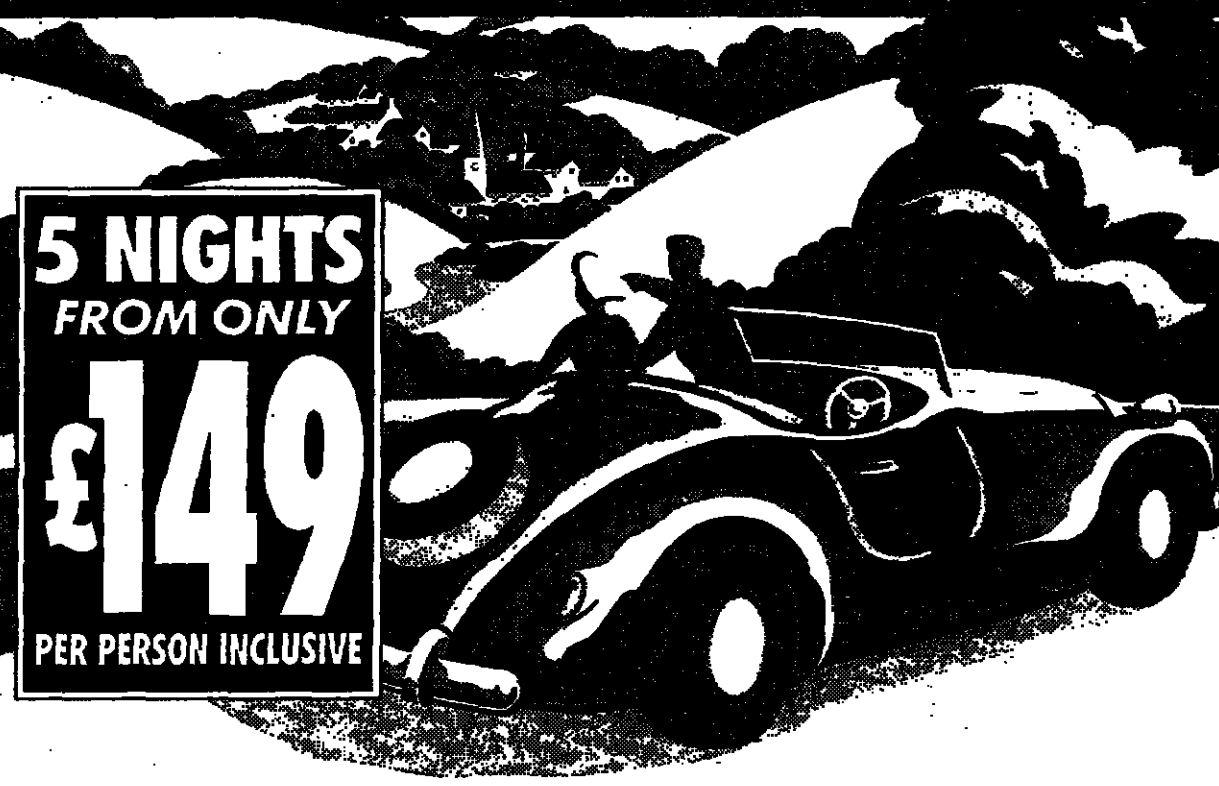
Durrant with their own.

Mr Ashworth said yesterday that Mrs Durrant had been hospitalised for five days after the accident, which damaged her lumbar region and injured her neck and shoulder. She appeared in court yesterday walking with the aid of a walking stick. Mr Ashworth said Mrs Durrant's husband had left her as a direct result of the accident.

The court was told that four and a half years later she could no longer sit comfortably for more than 20 minutes and was unable to work and would never be able to ride a horse again. The insurers disputed her belief that she would never be able to work again.

The case was adjourned until today.

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Non-Europeans lose Cambridge places to meet state demand

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE University has halved the number of students admitted from outside Europe in the course of reversing a decline in enrolments from state schools.

An analysis of this year's entry, released yesterday, shows applicants from state schools and colleges continue to win more places than those from the independent sector. The maintained sector's share has risen from 45 per cent to 48 per cent.

Independent schools have also increased their share by 3 per cent, however. The main casualties of the shift have been the overseas applicants, who have come to the university in growing numbers in recent years. Only 164 have been taken this year, compared with 353 in 1990.

Philip Ford, chairman of the Cambridge Admissions Forum, admitted that some foreign applicants were being squeezed out, and blamed new

government funding arrangements. "In the past, it made financial sense to take overseas students because they attracted larger fees, but now we are having to keep very much more to the targets for home students. In subjects such as engineering, computing studies and mathematics, which are popular with foreign applicants, we have to make sure that we take enough home students to avoid having funds clawed back."

The increase in state sector admissions was also reflected in a rise in the number of female entrants. Although they continue to be outnumbered by men, the 1,263 first-year women represent a 3 per cent increase on last year.

State school numbers have been rising at Cambridge for the past five years, although it was only in 1989 that they became a majority of the intake. In 1986, only a third of the university's entry was

from the maintained sector. Admissions tutors are still at a loss to explain why the process stalled last year, when there was a 2 per cent drop in recruitment from state schools and colleges. Dr Ford said yesterday that this year's reversal was not engineered. Offers of places had already been made when last year's decline was discovered.

The increase is not uniform across the colleges, but no breakdown of admissions will be available until next year. King's College is expected to lead the way in state sector admissions, with up to 70 per cent of its intake.

Dr Ford said: "We are very pleased that our policy of broadening access has resulted in the highest ever success rate for state school applicants and women. We shall continue to build on this to attract good applicants from all backgrounds."

Oxford University, which is also committed to increasing the share of places awarded to state school applicants, is yet to finalise its figures for the new academic year. Last year, it too saw the proportion drop, from 46 per cent to 44.5 per cent of the entry.

While the Conservatives were wrestling with conflicting attitudes towards Europe yesterday, a new academic initiative was promising to raise public awareness on the effects of European integration and the workings of the single market.

The Economic and Social Research Council has launched a £2 million initiative, involving 20 British universities and research institutes and eight from elsewhere on the continent. Headed by Professor David Mayes, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the programme will run for six years.

The Bank of England and two government departments have added to the £1.25 million put up by the research council to fund projects for 52 researchers. The lobbying process within the European Commission, and the influence of non-member states will be the first two subjects for study.

The council claims that the initiative is the first of its kind in Europe. Universities and research institutes in France, Germany and Italy will collaborate with British researchers on some projects. Lawyers, economists and geographers will be among those involved.

Clarke pledges cut in 'rubbish' sent to schools

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday that he would "try to get rid of some of the rubbish" sent to schools by the education department, educational advisers and local education authorities.

"A straightforward approach to education is what is called for. I agree with headteachers who say we still have to get rid of some of the bumph," Mr Clarke said.

Most heads and teachers accept that there has been some reduction in the amount of paperwork sent to schools since the 1988 Education Reform Act but believe that there should be further cuts. "The latest thing is that teachers are being used as messengers to distribute the parents' charter," said Peter Smith, of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

Complaints began in 1989 when the National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council sent out proposals for the new compulsory lessons and tests required by the 1988 Education Reform Act. The deluge of paper

prompted Peter Baldwin, head of St Gregory's Roman Catholic primary school, Chorley, Lancashire, to say that he and his colleagues were suffering "death by a thousand binders". Other teachers unions complained of "monstrous bureaucracy".

Last December ministers agreed that only essential statutory materials would be sent direct to schools which could choose which other publications they wanted.

The education department said yesterday that between January and September this year the 24,000 state schools in England and Wales had been sent 43 documents, mainly concerning the national curriculum but also on teachers' pay conditions and information to be passed to parents. The department insisted that the number sent direct had been halved.

That view was not shared by the National Union of Teachers. "The department is now writing to us to tell us what has been cut down but we think the amount has been doubled because of indecision and confusion," a spokesman said.

Pupils who chew gum fined

By DAVID TYTLER

CHILDREN at one of the government's 13 showcase city technology colleges are being fined £1 for chewing gum and £2 for smoking or having matches. Those who cannot pay can choose to do 30 minutes' community service, such as picking up litter.

Peter Jenkins, principal of the Church of England Bacon's City Technology College, in Rotherhithe, east London, said the fines had been introduced to stop chewing gum being stuck to the carpets and to reduce the danger of fire.

"There are practical reasons for the fines and the parents were consulted," Mr Jenkins said. "They want me to maintain what some people would consider traditional standards, and there have been no complaints from the children."

The college, with 950 pupils aged from 11 to 17, opened two weeks ago. The fines have raised £20, mostly from 13 and 14-year-olds, and all for chewing gum. The money goes to college funds, controlled by the children. "Nobody has chosen the community service option yet, as that means staying on after school," Mr Jenkins said.

Electricity bill threatens tin mine's tourist future

By JOHN YOUNG

THE future of a disused Cornish tin mine as a tourist attraction was in jeopardy yesterday as English Heritage made it clear that it could not meet the estimated £12,000 monthly electricity bill for the pumps which prevented the mine flooding to sea level.

Geevor mine, near Penzance, ceased production in February last year, and the pumps have been switched off since the end of August. Kevin Clark, the mine manager, said yesterday that it was likely that water had reached the 1,500ft level, where the main pumps and electrical equipment were housed.

Officials of English Heritage and the National Trust have recently visited the cliff site and have joined the county and district councils in

expressing concern about the future of the mine, which is seen as an important part of Cornish history. English Heritage made it clear yesterday that it was not in a position to meet the electricity bill. The mine could therefore be expected to flood to sea level, but the remaining workings and the buildings on the surface were still of historic interest.

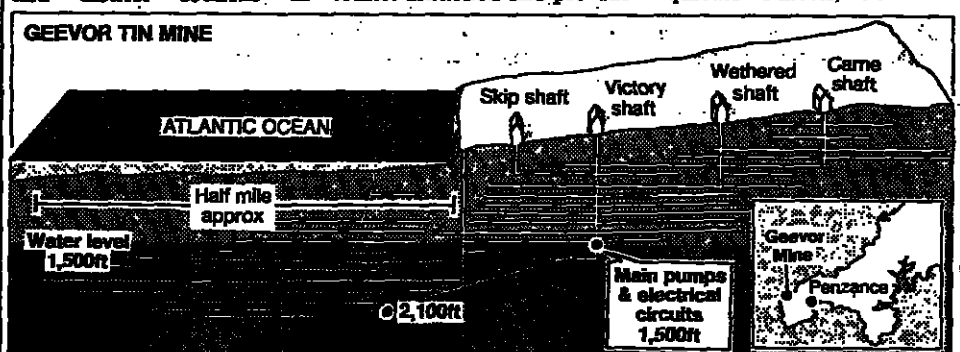
It would, theoretically, be possible to pump the water out of the deep workings; the shafts and tunnels bored through hard granite would not collapse as they would in a coal mine.

Brian Shipman, the county council's countryside officer, said the council was studying ways to protect the site as a tourist attraction and provide

employment, but felt it was running out of time. "We are not standing by idly," Mr Shipman said. "We are determined, and not just hopeful, that something will be done. But time is not on our side."

Mr Clark said that, so far as the mine owner, Geevor plc, was concerned, mining had ceased. The company had discussed the possibility of setting up a heritage centre with the county council and the National Trust, but it was not feasible to save the underground workings.

Unless somebody came forward with a feasible scheme for the future of the site, the company, which had invested £3.5 million since the mine reopened in 1988, would have no option but to sell it and liquidate its assets, he said.



Jail for 'caveman' rapist

A RAPIST who absconded during his crown court trial was jailed yesterday after nearly a year on the run.

Norman Blenkinsop lived in caves in North Yorkshire after failing to answer to bail at Teesside crown court last November. He had denied two rapes and was convicted by the jury in his absence and sentenced to ten years' jail.

Police, acting on a tip, arrested Blenkinsop, aged 49, at Northallerton, North Yorkshire, on Monday.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Popplewell ordered that Blenkinsop serve the sentence passed in November, and a further three months for jumping bail.

The original trial was told that Blenkinsop, of Brompton, North Yorkshire, had abused a girl over a two-year period. He had first raped her when she was 12.

Christopher Attwood, in mitigation, said yesterday that Blenkinsop felt he had been ill served by his solicitors. "After hearing the prosecution evidence against him, he felt it was inevitable he would be convicted," he said. "But he still protests his innocence. He has been living an extremely miserable existence in caves in the Malton area of North Yorkshire."

After the hearing, Mr Attwood said he did not know how Blenkinsop had been getting food, but suspected he had been helped.

Beggar's lot

FOURTEEN 18th century botanical prints were sold for £17,050 on behalf of one of the publisher's descendants at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, Sussex, yesterday. Dr Robert Thornton's attention to detail led to penury and he held a lottery with a set of plates as first prize to recoup his costs. But few tickets were sold and he was, according to a contemporary account, "ever after a beggar man".

Tackling drugs

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, joined officials from Liverpool and Everton football clubs yesterday to launch a campaign to deal with Merseyside's serious drugs problem with the slogan, "Kick drugs into touch". He told a news conference in Liverpool's trophy room at Anfield that the area had the highest number of drug offenders arrested and charged outside London.

Litigation plea

THE 1,200 patent agents in England and Wales have become the first group of non-lawyers to apply under the government's legal reforms for the right to initiate legal proceedings. The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents is seeking the right to conduct litigation, that is prepare for court proceedings in the Chancery division of the High Court, including the patents court, in intellectual property disputes.

Castle appeal

An appeal to raise funds for repairs to and restoration of Durham Castle was launched yesterday with donations of £160,000 and support from the Prince of Wales. Officials of Durham University, custodians of the 900-year-old castle, and businessmen have formed a charitable trust to raise £2.5 million for work on the building.

IRA bomb found in tax office

By JAMIE DETTMER

POLICE launched an enquiry yesterday into how the Provisional IRA managed to plant a bomb in a Belfast building due to be opened by the Northern Ireland secretary.

Peter Brooke's visit to open the new Inland Revenue office complex at Dorchester House in the city centre was cancelled after police received a telephone warning. A bomb containing 2lb of the plastic explosive Semtex was discovered shortly before midnight on Monday after a 15-hour search of the building.

Mr Brooke said yesterday: "Once again the sheer illogicality of Sinn Féin on the one hand calling for jobs while the IRA seek to blast them out of existence on the other is amply demonstrated. One sometimes wonders if the right hand knows what the left hand is doing."

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman said there was no reason to believe there had been a leak about Mr Brooke's visit. "Whether the IRA knew that Mr Brooke was going to go there we don't know. It is probable that they just got lucky. There have been other occasions when a Northern Ireland secretary has had to call off a visit because of a possible threat."

The security surrounding Northern Ireland ministers is normally very tight. Visits are shrouded in secrecy and only a few people are alerted about the whereabouts of ministers. Journalists in the province are told by the Northern Ireland Office of a visit shortly before it is due to take place.

● The Republican Irish People's Liberation Organisation said it carried out an attack on a Belfast city centre bar late on Monday night. Two men were injured in the attack. Both are recovering in hospital.



Clinging to life: a young ivy, the smallest bonsai exhibited in the Royal Horticultural Society's autumn flower show at Westminster. Show report, page 20

Town shakes off bad times

Silicon Glen factory closure

THE image builders of Livingston in central Scotland were coming to terms yesterday with the sudden collapse of one of the town's main employers. The capital of Silicon Glen, known by its bold advertising throughout Britain as "the place for making it", was shaken by the announcement that Unisys, the American electronics corporation, was to shut its plant with a loss of 680 jobs, many of them highly qualified graduate engineers.

"It is serious because this is a successful operation here with its own research and development organisation and manufacturing plant, everything that is supposed to make a factory less vulnerable. It has nothing to do with the recession in Scotland but everything to do with decisions made thousands of miles away in the United States," Bobb Watt, chairman of the Livingston Development Corporation, said. The corporation attracted Unisys to the town

As Livingston counts the cost of the closure of one of its largest electronics factories, Ronald Faux discovers it may not be as devastating as previous collapses

10 years ago. Livingston spreads across a stretch of countryside west of Edinburgh, a new town centre surrounded by scores of neat low-lying factories housing high-technology industry from Japan, America and the Continent.

Over the past decade they have injected new life into a local economy damaged by the demise of its traditional coal and steel industries. From a village of 2,000 a town of 43,000 has blossomed along with 22,000 jobs, half of them in the electronics industry.

The collapse of Unisys, the fourth largest of Livingston's companies, is the worst news to hit the town since the Pye-TMC closure 10 years ago. "That was a bad time," Jim Pollock, chief executive of the

corporation, said, "but it proved to be an ill wind that blew some good. Within 10 weeks the Japanese firm Mitsubishi had moved in and their first video recorders were coming off the assembly lines." As Unisys was announcing its bad news on Monday Mitsubishi, the town's largest employer, announced an expansion in Livingston that would allow the transfer of high technology manufacturing processes from Japan to Scotland.

Even so the demise of Unisys has sent ripples of apprehension through the Scottish new towns that rely heavily on American investment, signalling that even the most modern technologies can be put at risk by a tide of depression running thousands

of miles away across the Atlantic.

But Marcus Sharp, managing director of Rombo, a video digitiser manufacturer, and neighbour of Unisys, did not believe the collapse signalled serious trouble ahead for the industry. His Scottish-owned company has expanded rapidly and now occupies the building where Unisys began its own expansion in Livingston. The town is like that, a bubbling crucible of computerised industry expanding and contracting according to the quality of the latest brainwave and market demand. Companies come, go, expand and absorb but the net result is an extra 1,200 jobs every year and a five-fold increase in electronic jobs in as many years.

As the career counsellors moved into the Unisys offices yesterday and the development corporation began a trawl of local opportunities for the redundant workers, older hands in Livingston saw the crisis as much less severe than in the days when traditional industry died and men with no skills were left without work. "Losing a job is devastating at any time but many of the Unisys workers have skills that are in high demand throughout the electronic industry," a corporation official said. Perhaps by the time the £40 million expansion of Livingston town centre has been completed and the new occupant has moved into the empty factory the Unisys crisis will be a distant memory.

● The American-based disk drive manufacturer Conner Peripherals announced yesterday that it was reducing by almost a quarter the workforce at its plant at Irvine, Ayrshire. Over the course of the day, the plant's 415 employees were told that 95 of their number had been selected for redundancy.

£2bn scramble to keep air passengers in touch

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS executives who regard long flights as a break from the office and home are soon to discover that there is no escape from the ubiquitous telephone and fax.

Electronics companies throughout the world are fighting for a share of a £2 billion market for "in-flight communications" that will keep airline passengers in touch with events and enable them to make and receive telephone calls.

Developments in satellite links and micro-chip technology have made it possible to provide telephones which can be connected to more

than 95 per cent of the world's lines. Almost every big airline is studying the rival systems, which were vying with each other at a conference in London yesterday to convince potential customers that their system is the best.

Britain's GEC-Marconi believes it may be close to a big order from an American airline for its system, incorporating films, games, weather information, news and telephones through a tiny screen and handset. It was built over ten weeks to match similar designs from America and Japan.

Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways' chief executive, said that the airline was planning to spend £20 million on such a system for its club world passengers within the next few months. "Under what circumstances would you expect to spend 12, 18 or even 24 hours entirely incommunicado, cut off from colleagues, meetings and all the rest of your busy schedule?" he asked delegates to the World Airline Entertainment Association conference. "Possible answers might include going into hospital or being put in jail. Yet it is precisely

this degree of isolation which currently we are asking our business travellers to endure."

New developments meant that isolation would soon be ended, he said. "Passengers will have access to regular live updates on news and current affairs. No longer will they cruise at 30,000ft in total isolation, emerging from their aircraft to discover that the world has changed momentously since they boarded."

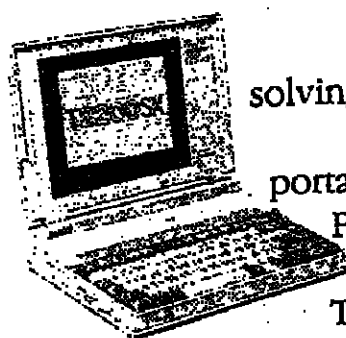
The market leader is the American company GTE, which has developed a system that enables passengers

to use a credit card to call any number they wish, using either a ground-based station - for an initial charge of \$2 plus \$2 a minute - or a satellite link which will cost twice as much. They and other manufacturers are putting pressure on European nations to take over radio wavebands reserved for Nato but which are now surplus to requirements.

Each passenger is given a specific number before boarding the aircraft which he can then give to his company or his home, enabling him to receive incoming calls.



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How Tories saw the light and came to love their chairman



By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Tory party conference has learnt to love its new chairman. There had been suspicions of Chris Patten, who took the considerable gamble yesterday of speaking to the conference without a prepared text and brought it off to win a genuine standing ovation.

Mr Patten is not every Conservative's darling. It still does not do to be so obviously bright in a party that finds some people too clever by half. Some worried that he might be too fastidious about the brocade-waistcoat-wearing and snake-oil-selling aspects of a party chairman's job and doubted his stomach for the occasional bouts of trench warfare. The right

wing doubt the unifying abilities of one of the three cabinet ministers who threatened to resign if Margaret Thatcher had stayed on to fight the second round of the leadership election. They fear that Mr Patten, the standard bearer of one-nation Toryism, has too much intellectual purchase on the prime minister and will be allowed to draft too left-leaning an election manifesto.

They distrust his use of the continental term "social market" and recall his early opposition to monetarism. And, typically, the Worthington College school of Tories have complained that "his world view revolves around compromise and placating potential opposition".

But yesterday Mr Patten sur-

mounted those obstacles without selling out his own style. He showed that he can deliver a good speech as well as write one. He earned a new respect, even affection from the Tory faithful for some highly effective Labour and Liberal Democrat baiting. And he gave the Tories a much-needed lift by turning the attack back on Labour (was it only three weeks ago in these volatile times that Neil Kinnock was on the run against the opinion poll verdicts on his personal qualities?). In the process he gave us a sneak preview of the Tory election campaign.

On yesterday's evidence that will centre on attacking Labour as

a party that has sold out on so many principles that it simply cannot be trusted to stick to anything it says, coupled with an appeal to the people to trust John Major as the straight man of British politics.

In a conversational style that engaged his audience rather than hectoring them, Mr Patten supplied the mandatory sound bites, even if his picture of socialism as a "clapped out relic of the industrial toils of the last century, hobbling on its zimmer frame into the sunset" might cost a pensioner's vote or too. But he got his audience thinking too.

Mr Patten himself could be on risky ground deriding people for changing their opinions. He has confessed that he was wrong in criticising early Thatcherite eco-

nomic policies and has switched his line on proportional representation. But, as he says, "any career involves adjustment and accommodation". What Labour has done is to renege on every important tenet of its faith.

Yesterday, he set out in simple terms the basics of Conservative beliefs that they have not had to change, and linked them with the emergence into light of Eastern Europe. He won the right by paying the necessary tributes to Mrs Thatcher's conviction politics of the Eighties and praised her and the party for standing by her beliefs in the face of numinous opposition. Well, until last November anyway. And he even used her terms such as "honest money".

The Tory chairman dem-

onstrated his tactical grip by identifying the contradiction between Paddy Ashdown's long and short-term ambitions: the Liberal Democrats can make progress at the next election only by weakening the Tories. But unless Labour are defeated again they will never see the realignment of the left that will give them their chance of PR and of changing the future shape of politics.

He played consumer politics well, saying that the Tories wanted a "patients' charter", a "parents' charter" and a "passengers' charter" while Labour wanted a "TUC charter". But in the end he went for simplicity. The Tories, he said, had never had a slogan as good as "Trust the People". And in John Major the people had a politician they could trust.

Heath attack on economic policy angers right-wingers

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EDWARD Heath provoked protests from the Tory right yesterday as he criticised the economic and social policies of his successor, slamming the privatisation of the water industry and its possible extension into the prison service and defence.

The former prime minister urged the government to drop sole reliance on interest rates to control the economy, said tax cuts could go too far, echoed the Archbishop of Canterbury in pinpointing the cause of recent city disturbances as being the feeling of young people that they were outside the community, and said it would be wrong to take privatisation to any lengths.

YOUNG TORIES

He blamed the Deal barracks bombing, in which 11 Royal Marine bandmen were killed in 1989, on privatising security there. "You have to be clear about this. There are aspects of our life that it is essential for the government to carry through."

Mr Heath upset a vocal right-wing faction who barked him as he delivered the Macmillan lecture to the Young Conservatives at the party's Blackpool conference. He was careful not to criticise John Major, but he left his audience in no doubt that he had Margaret Thatcher in his sights.

He said that law and order, security and defence were not appropriate areas for privatisation. "These are the responsibilities of government and any attempt to privatise bits or all of them is an abdication of government - it is not the pursuit of Conservative policy." There were cries of "rubbish" from the floor as he said privatisation in the prison service would be unjustifiable.

Mr Heath said that water privatisation was a mistake and privatising parts of police work was "a nonsense".

In effect, he also called for tax cuts to be stopped so that more money could be pushed into the health and education services. He said: "There comes a point in any community where people's incentives are not affected by any further reduction. They begin to say to themselves, 'I would rather have my children better educated and better health for my family...'"

Despite some winnowing out in the past week or so, there were still too many proposals on the table that Britain could not and would not accept. "We will not be afraid to say 'no' where necessary, but we want an agreement that offers the best future for Britain, the best future for Europe and the best future for Britain in Europe."

He called for more European action on crime and said that it was ludicrous for Roy Hattersley, Labour shadow home secretary, to dismiss the problem of asylum seekers looking for a more comfortable life rather than fleeing persecution.

Heath: privatisation comes under fire

'Mentors' planned for teachers

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EDUCATION

PLANS for "teaching schools" in which student teachers would learn much of their craft through practical experience rather than textbook theory were unveiled by Kenneth Clarke.

Making clear that there would be no slackening in the Conservative zeal for educational change, the education secretary said that reform of teacher training was his next target. Students would be assigned an experienced teacher as their mentor and a greater emphasis would be placed on survival skills.

Mr Clarke gave few details of his plans. However, it is understood that he is planning to model his scheme on that used by the medical profession. In the same way as young doctors hone their skills under the supervision of a consultant, he intends to introduce teaching schools specialising in equipping young teachers to face the rigours of the classroom. Under the plan, the final year of a four-year bachelor of education course would be spent in the classroom. Good schools would be selected for "teaching school" status and would be given extra money.



Heath: privatisation comes under fire

Gummer promises help for farmers

By PETER MILLIGAN

AGRICULTURE

JOHN Gummer, agriculture minister, gave notice of new moves to help farmers yesterday as representatives from rural areas gave him a blunt account of their plight.

Replying to a debate marked by complaints of uncertainty facing farmers, Mr Gummer promised a policy programme, to be called Our Farming Future, before Christmas, giving a commitment to the countryside. He said: "The government has to make clear how it believes Britain's farmers can best face the future in a fast-changing world. At this critical time, it is vital that every farmer and farmworker should know where we stand in order that we may stand together, government and industry, to ensure a future for the land."

He also highlighted a £6 billion trade gap in food and drink and signalled an initiative next month to help the

industry to "make the most out of the market".

Mr Gummer said that some uncertainty was inevitable due to talks on GATT and on reform of the common agricultural policy. "I am not going to hurry that decision to the disadvantage of British farmers and British consumers," he said.

Describing the Tories as the "country party", he said that they must move closer to the market, and act on surpluses by using environmentally friendly set-aside schemes.

From the floor, Kevin Littleboy, Yorkshire, said that the Tories had lost much goodwill and financial backing from rural communities due to uncertainty facing agriculture and allied industries. He said: "Farmers will not support you and go bankrupt."



Sailing home: Norma Major visiting the British shipping stand at the Conservative party's annual conference in Blackpool yesterday

Hurd rejects EC 'straitjacket' of federal states

By JOHN WINDER AND ROBERT MORGAN

A FEDERAL straitjacket would not work for the European Community, Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said. He gave the conference some indications of the line that will be taken by Britain in the pre-Maastricht summit negotiations when he described some of Britain's partners as "too ambitious".

Despite some winnowing out in the past week or so, there were still too many proposals on the table that Britain could not and would not accept. "We will not be afraid to say 'no' where necessary, but we want an agreement that offers the best future for Britain, the best future for Europe and the best future for Britain in Europe."

He called for more European action on crime and said that it was ludicrous for Roy Hattersley, Labour shadow home secretary, to dismiss the problem of asylum seekers looking for a more comfortable life rather than fleeing persecution.

Heath: privatisation comes under fire

Community and the European parliament had its place in that, but its main priority should be to "tighten the leash" on the Commission and improve policing of Community spending. "This is a thoroughly worthwhile job for the parliament to do. We want to see it strengthened and believe this can be done without weakening national parliaments."

The conference carried overwhelmingly a motion urging that the cautious but sensible attitude to the development of the European Community be maintained.

Cautioning against economic and monetary union, William Brackley, aged 17, chairman of Tunbridge Wells Young Conservatives, likened EMU to the ugly bird of the same name. It was, he said, unable to fly but if entrusted to take off it would fall flat on its face.

Peter Riddell, page 18

Minister calls for greener conscience

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENT

EVERYONE needs to alter their habits to reverse the environmental threats facing the planet, David Trippier, an environment minister, told the conference in the opening debate.

Promoting the government's "green" stewardship, he said: "The chemicals we use, the petrol we waste, the heat we lose through poorly insulated walls and roofs, the litter we spill, the glass and metal we throw in the bin, may appear so trivial in proportion to the scale of the problem that it does not seem worth the effort of altering our behaviour. But unless millions of people are urged and guided to alter these habits, these disastrous trends will not stop and the day after tomorrow will be dark."

He focused on litter louts as causing the most disgraceful scourge to deface the country. The recent raising of fines

from £400 to £1,000 should help to deter those mindless people who still did not realise that dropping litter was an anti-social, filthy and personally degrading habit.

In a bullish defence of the government's action on EC environmental laws, Mr Trippier said that those who derived warped pleasure from claiming that Britain was the dirty man of Europe should shut up. A recent report showed that Britain now ranked fourth out of the 12 member states on "green" performance and in many areas took the lead.

John Bowis, MP for Battersea, called for stiffer penalties for noisy neighbours. "Noise is one of those urban menaces those mega-decibels in the night, the unquiet night of the all-night party."

CONFERENCE DIARY

Keeping to the old faith

The Selsdon Group, one of several keepers of the Thatcherite flame, caused fresh embarrassment for the government yesterday by accusing Richard Ryder, the chief whip, of nobbling the ministers and MPs among its ranks.

After the weekend uproar over its much-trailed pamphlet fuelling Labour's claim that the Tories plan to privatise the NHS, the group's leaders might have been expected to abandon their plans to launch the document at a conference fringe meeting.

Word went out that the meeting, to be addressed by John Whittingdale, one of its luminaries and Margaret Thatcher's political secretary, had been cancelled. However, a press conference launching the much-derided document, went

ahead as planned. The results came close to force as party activists, unaware that Mr Whittingdale was conveniently escorting the former prime minister around Liverpool, turned up to find an unabashed Iain Mays, the group's chairman, lambasting Mr Ryder.

Mr Mays was disappointed that Michael Forsyth, Scotland's health minister, had found the pamphlet's call for insurance-funding of the NHS and the "sale" of hospitals too hot to handle and resigned as one its 22 vice-presidents. But others, he suggested, were made of sterner stuff and would not be browbeaten by the chief whip.

Robert George, the Cambridgeshire seedsman who won a claim for unfair

dismissal after refusing to work on Sundays, is being feted as a hero by the Keep Sunday Special campaign. Mr George, who told an industrial tribunal that he wanted Sundays off to be with his family and attend church, will be the guest speaker at the campaign's fringe meeting tomorrow.

Who says there's no romance at Tory conferences? This afternoon Simon Coombs, MP for Swindon, and his wife Kathryn will drink champagne in the Planet Room to celebrate their first meeting there during the 1981 conference. Ten years ago Coombs was a Tory hopeful and the American-born Kathryn was showing a delegation of Republicans around the conference when they were introduced. They married 15 months later.

Baker can be confident of easing law and order fears

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker need not don chain-mail before his address to the Tory conference today. Predictions of a blood-bath during the Conservatives' annual law and order debate have seldom proved accurate, with the notable exception of Willie Whitelaw's humiliation in 1981.

This year, with the party faithful on election alert, such fears are again misplaced. However, the applause with which the Blackpool audience will greet the home secretary will not disguise the unease the party faithful feel about his performance at Queen Anne's Gate or the government's broader record in spearheading the fight against crime. A feeling is abroad that the Tories' claim to be the party of law and order is no longer incontestable.

The feeling, moreover, has spread well beyond the party's ranks. As was evinced by the bitter charges the Police Federation levelled against the government yesterday at a conference fringe meeting, Richard Coyle, vice-chairman of the main police association, said that government moves to encourage greater use of non-custodial penalties could spur a catastrophic crime wave.

Mr Coyle's criticisms un-

derline the extent to which support for the Conservatives within the police service has fallen. Now there are signs of growing disenchantment in the wider electorate.

In March 1988, according to research conducted by Mori, 50 per cent of voters considered the Conservatives' law and order policies the best, compared with a 15 per cent for Labour. A Mori poll in late September indicated that the Tories were down to 37 per cent and Labour up to 24 per cent.

Pollsters, however, point out that the government's real position is substantially better because the elderly, who rank law and order as one of the most important political issues, turn out in greater numbers to vote than do the young. Ministers also believe that any advance Labour has made will shrink when, as is intended, the Tories subject their plans to detailed scrutiny.

In one important respect, claims that the war against crime is a Conservative "heartland" issue have always been questionable. Recorded crime figures, which are still widely regarded as providing a

useful indicator of broad crime trends, have risen as strongly during Tory administrations as during Labour ones. But voters, rather than blaming the Tories for increasing crime, have traditionally credited them with having the best antidotes.

However, there is concern within Tory circles that Mr Baker, who began his innings as home secretary with considerable verve, has had his credibility shaken by a series of Home Office goofs: a public outcry over dangerous dogs; the escape of two IRA suspects from Brixton jail; and a resurgence of street disorders in some cities. While even Mr Baker's harshest critics do not blame him for being surprised by such "deliveries", many think that he could have reacted to them more adroitly.

That being said, there is admiration, even among Opposition MPs, for the way he has taken up the cause of penal reform, a cause that will never enrage his party. He gives the impression of being genuinely appalled by the state of the prison network and is seen to have shown courage in drawing up a radical, if vaguely funded, reform agenda.

Patten derides turncoat Labour

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

PARTY CHIEF

CHRIS Patten, the party chairman, told the conference that socialism was in retreat across the world and that it would be an astonishing irony if Britain were to vote for "its shamefaced disciples".

The Labour party lacked any bedrock of principle and party would be fighting the next election on the slogan "Five years ago Labour wouldn't have voted for Neil Kinnock". Mr Patten asked: "If Neil Kinnock can so easily give up the beliefs of a lifetime, how long would it take him to ditch the beliefs of a lunchtime?"

He added that Britain's economic prospects had been transformed. Inflation was plummeting and there were signs of economic recovery. "That is good news for Britain, but bad news for Labour."

He outlined Tory guiding principles as a belief in sound money, getting and keeping inflation down, extending opportunity and choice and improving the standard of public services. That was to be combined with the achievement of security at home, the strength to make our mark abroad and participation in a stronger European Community.

Mr Patten paid tribute to Margaret Thatcher's battle of ideas as having paved the way to victory in 1979. "That is how we saved this country from a steady decline and gave Britain back her pride, self-confidence and self-respect."

He derided the Liberal Democrats for being all things to all men except for their limited devotion to proportional representation, a policy "designed not principally to improve the government of Britain but to puff up Liberal influence."

Mr Kinnock's only chance of getting to Downing Street was "in the back of a Liberal taxi". Mr Patten added: But the Liberal Democrats really wanted a smashing Labour defeat. "What they are desperate for is the chance to pitch their tents among the ruins of socialism - but they cannot say it."

Turning to Labour, the Conservative chairman said that there were times when it was right to change one's mind. "But to change your mind on everything, to give up everything which you allegedly believed in, that simply defies credibility."

He claimed that Labour's whole election campaign was to be based on "sleazy smears about our record and plans for the National Health Service". The Conservatives, he said, would trust the people.

Debates today

This morning there are debates on transport (9.30), on employment and training (10.25), and on the economy and taxation (11.25). In the afternoon, there are debates on home affairs (2.20), on housing and planning (3.25), and on Northern Ireland (4.25).

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Leading article, page 19

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1991

Russia in turmoil as factions vie for power

From BRUCE CLARK in MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, the only man on the Russian political scene whose authority is still unquestioned, is under fire for taking a two-week rest cure by the Black Sea when there is a growing vacuum at the centre of Soviet power. In his absence, the Russian president's lieutenants have taken to ferocious squabbling.

The fighting threatens to paralyse the Russian government and fatally complicate any efforts to reform the economy, attract Western help and build a looser political and economic structure.

Even if Mr Yeltsin recovers his health and his authority in the next few days, the speed with which five or six factions in the Russian leadership have attacked each other will be

viewed as an alarming sign of the republic's fragility.

The first question the Russian leader must address is whether and on what terms to join the "economic community" endorsed in Kazakhstan last week by representatives of 12 Soviet republics, including Russia's economy minister, Yevgeni Saburov. Scarcely had word of the Alma-Ata accord reached Moscow than the Russian cabinet cut the ground from under Mr Saburov's feet by issuing a statement saying he had no authority to make economic agreements on the republican government's behalf.

Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Kazakh president, who hosted the Alma-Ata meeting, insists that Mr Yeltsin has assured him by telephone of his support for Mr Saburov personally and for the general idea of an economic community.

The Russian cabinet is only one of the feverishly competing centres of power in the huge republic. Others include Mr Yeltsin's personal staff, mostly old associates from his days as party boss in Sverdlovsk; the newly created council of state, supposed to guarantee transparent government; and the secretary of state, Gennadi Burbulis, another product of Mr Yeltsin's home city in the Urals, now called Yekaterinburg.

Protesters march on parliament

Tbilisi - About 300 protesters opposed to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the president of Georgia, were in a tense standoff with security forces after marching towards the parliament building in Tbilisi yesterday, where the deputies were preparing for an emergency debate on the political tension that has paralysed the republic for the past month.

The marchers were stopped along the avenue by a line of security forces who had set up buses across the road to block access to the parliament. Irina Sarashvili, the acting leader of the opposition National Democratic party, demanded that the barricade be removed. The protesters, some carrying a banner demanding an explanation from the president for recent violence, then sat down and occupied the road. (AFP)

Honecker deal

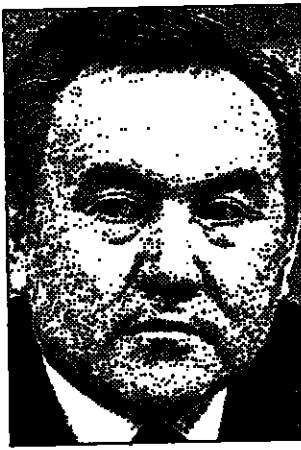
Hamburg - Germany and the Soviet Union have agreed that Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, will remain in the Soviet Union for now, the newspaper Bild said. However, German investigators will be able to question Herr Honecker over shoot-to-kill orders issued to guards at the Berlin Wall. (Reuters)

Brandt ill

Bonn - Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor, has cancelled all appointments this week because of illness, a spokeswoman said. She declined to confirm a press report that Herr Brandt, aged 77, chairman of the Socialist International, might have blood clots in his legs. (Reuters)

Trawler deaths

La Coruna, Spain - Galicia's rocky "coast of death" claimed five more victims when the 141-ton trawler La Xana broke apart on stormy Atlantic shoals off the north-western region. Twenty-eight Galician fishermen have drowned since last week, 14 off the coast of death and 14 off the Scottish coast. (AP)



Nazarbayev: hosted talks on economic community



Surrealist's world: The sculpture *The Therapist* by René Magritte, the Belgian surrealist artist, gets a quizzical glance from a visitor to the eighteenth Contemporary Arts International Fair exhibition being staged in Paris. Magritte, who died in 1967 at the age of 69, was one of the most prominent of the surrealist artists, whose bizarre flights of fancy blended

Nato to halve nuclear stocks

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO is to scrap up to half its nuclear bombs unilaterally, according to alliance sources in Brussels. An official announcement is expected during a meeting of Nato defence ministers in Sicily next week.

The decision, which could lead to 600-700 bombs being destroyed, follows announcements from President Bush and President Gorbachev that all land-based tactical missiles and nuclear artillery shells are to be eliminated. Senior Nato officials believe it is now safe to make substantial cuts in the number of bombs as well.

Britain, which has an estimated 100-200 nuclear free-fall WE177 bombs, carried by Tornado bombers, is expected to join the US in halving its stockpile. The RAF is seeking to replace the ageing bombs with a tactical air-to-surface missile (Tasm) with a range of at least 350 miles.

The United States has about 400 nuclear bombs in Britain, 500 in Germany, 100 each in Italy and Turkey and a few dozen in both The Netherlands and Belgium. Two weeks ago Mr Bush announced the cancellation of the US programme to build an air-launched tactical missile.

British sources emphasised yesterday that the planned cutback was not part of any plan to denuclearise Europe. Germany remains ambivalent about keeping nuclear systems on its territory. But British officials are confident that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will support the continued storage of nuclear bombs at bases in his country provided that numbers are reduced to a minimum.

Japanese soften Soviet aid stance

From JOANNA PITMAN in TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday announced its own plan to give emergency aid worth up to \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) to the Soviet Union, in the wake of Monday's decision by the European Community to provide assistance worth \$2.4 billion. The proposal suggests that Japan may be succumbing slowly to pressure from its G7 partners to take a softer stance on aid.

Mitsuo Sakamoto, chief cabinet secretary, said the package would come in the form of a \$500 million Export Import Bank of Japan loan, co-financed by a syndicate of commercial banks. Japan will also offer \$1.8 billion worth of trade insurance for Japanese companies wishing to do business with the Soviet Union, and \$200 million worth of credit from the Export Import Bank to promote trade.

Yesterday's offer marks a significant increase on last December's promise of \$100 million worth of food and medicine. A foreign ministry spokesman said Japan wished to encourage more Japanese companies to do business with the Soviet Union. "We want to send the message that we welcome the changes going on in the country," he said. He added that Japan might be prepared to reconsider its aid proposals separately from the long-standing issue of a peace treaty.

Japan has refused to sign a second world war peace treaty with the Soviet Union because of a long-standing dispute over the Soviet-occupied Kurile islands, off Japan's northern coast. The territorial dispute has plagued economic relations between the two countries, and has been the main reason for Japan's refusal to give substantial aid.

Sources at the finance ministry emphasise that Japan is sticking to its territorial claim, and that the dispute will act as a bar to full-blown economic aid. "The latest World Bank report of last December concluded that assistance, other than emergency imports of agricultural products, would not be useful for the Soviet Union. We are still taking this as our guide. After all, they are not yet starved to death," the source said.

In private, officials concede, however, that Japan will not be able to resist the growing trend in the United States and Europe towards full-scale economic assistance to the Soviet Union. As one of the G7 nations with the potential to offer substantial aid, Japan is already being prevailed upon to open its coffers on behalf of the West.

Grey crime. Elderly Japanese are turning to crime because of a lack of family support, the justice ministry said in its annual report. It stated that 1,990 people over the age of 60 were serving jail terms compared with 1,838 in the previous year. Traffic offences led the list of crimes, followed by murder, forgery and larceny.

"Many of the elderly committed crimes because they had been alienated from the family," an official said. "Some have tried to re-enter prison because they have nowhere to go." (Reuters)



A MESSAGE TO THE G7 FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING THIS WEEK IN BANGKOK TO DISCUSS THIRD WORLD DEBT REPAYMENTS.

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For every £1 we give to poor countries, they give us £3 back in debt repayments and interest. Christian Aid welcomes the British Government's initiative to cancel two-thirds of the debts owed by 19 of the poorest countries in the world. But it cannot act alone. It is time for all the 7 to agree.

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Nostalgia for nazi era grows in German skinhead gangs

From IAN MURRAY in HOYERSWERDA, SAXONY

HEINRICH Jareckis is 19 and nostalgic for Hitler. "He made us great. If I had been alive then, we would never have lost the war," he said, bunched his fist and shaking it defiantly.

Taught by communist teachers from childhood that fascism was evil, he has been enjoying stories about the nazis as though they were forbidden fruit ever since German unification. The romance of those days gives him some kind of escape.

Heinrich, it must be said, is not typical of the stolid Saxon citizens of the town, although he and his skinhead friends have given it the shameful distinction of inspiring the current wave of attacks

against foreigners all over united Germany. After besieging a hostel for Mozambicans and Vietnamese for nearly a week, police decided to move the 250 foreigners away rather than risk more trouble. When they were moved out, copycat raids on foreigners began in earnest.

"We cleared them out of here and about time too," Heinrich said. "We Germans have enough to do without looking after those people as well." Heinrich has nothing to do. He has no job and has not yet signed on for the training courses that might give him the chance of employment. "Me and my friends are training," he said. "We have a big job ahead of us." He did

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Mountain View, California, October 2d.

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Baker and Pankin fly to Middle East

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the United States secretary of state, will fly to the Middle East this weekend for the eighth time since the Gulf war to try to finalise details for a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Soviet foreign minister, Boris Pankin, is also planning a visit to the Middle East to discuss the conference, a deputy foreign minister said yesterday.

The US and the Soviet Union have said they would like to co-sponsor a Middle East peace conference as early as this month. But would-be participants, including Israel, Arab states and Palestinians,

have failed to agree so far on terms for coming to the table. A state department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, said Mr Baker would have meetings in Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. He also plans talks with Palestinian representatives. Among sticking points is who should attend peace talks as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Mr Baker's latest mission comes amid tension between Israel and Washington after a majority of US senators, including traditional supporters of Israeli interests, agreed to back President Bush's request for a 120-day delay in

debate of Israel's request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees. The loans were requested to help settle Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Ms Tutwiler said the secretary of state hoped "to overcome the remaining issues" before sending out any invitations or convening a conference. The mission is expected to last five days, although it could be extended.

Mr Baker's decision to return to the Middle East comes as Washington is trying to juggle a wish by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to become more involved in the peace process and a demand from Israeli that the PLO stay out. The US has made no move this month to resume direct talks with the PLO despite a step by the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament in exile, to try to appease Washington by dropping an accused terrorist leader, Abu Abbas, from its ruling executive council.

The PNC ended a week-long conference in Algiers late last month by releasing a list of terms under which the PLO would take part in peace talks. The conditions appeared to clear Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to mix with the PLO in a delegation with Jordan.

Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the PLO, called on the United States to resume direct talks with his organisation after the resignation of Mr Abbas. The Bush Administration has accused Mr Abbas, who heads the Baghdad-based Palestine Liberation Front, of directing a failed attack by Palestinian guerrillas last year on a beach in Tel Aviv. Washington broke off direct talks with the PLO when it declined to condemn or punish Mr Abbas.

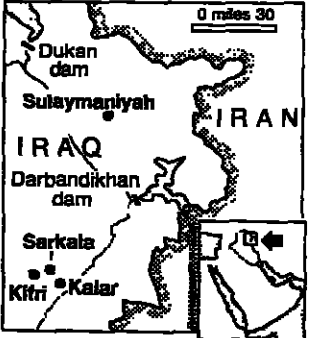
Before leaving Washington, Mr Baker may see two prominent Palestinians, Faisal Husseini and Hanan Sharawi, the state department said. The Bush Administration has assured the Israelis that they will not be forced to sit down with any Palestinians against their will.

Baghdad pressure on Kurds grows

By DAVID WATTS AND HAZRAT TEIMOURIAN

IRAQ appears to be engaged in a campaign to pressure the Kurds into signing an agreement with the central government as winter approaches in the north of the country.

The Iraqi authorities, Jalal Talabani, a Kurdish leader, told *The Times*, are draining two large dams in the region of Sulaymaniyah so as to deprive the Kurds of electricity. The



Thousands of Kurdish refugees are fleeing once more towards the Iranian border, he said in an interview. The organisation Médicins sans Frontières said yesterday that there have been 400 deaths in Sulaymaniyah alone. There are 500 injured in the city's hospital.

Mr Talabani described the fighting as "full-scale war" and said that he had urged Western governments to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein and the Baath party. Mr Talabani, who is in London to address political party conferences, added that Western governments had promised him that they would help to defend the Kurds if Baghdad started another large-scale offensive.



Window on the world: children wait for a view of Poland's Cardinal Jozef Glemp, who dedicated a cultural centre in the Greenpoint district of Brooklyn, New York, which is home to a large Polish-American population

Broadway season opens with a whimper

With takings down, Broadway's autumn season is almost a thing of the past, James Bone reports

THE traditional autumn opening of a new Broadway season used to bring crowds to the marquees of the Great White Way. But times have changed, and the 1991-92 season, which starts tonight with a revival of Paul Osborn's 1938 *On Borrowed Time* starring George C. Scott, will begin not with a bang but a whimper.

Already, some on Broadway are describing 1991-92 — which began for statistical purposes on June 1 — as a "spring season", because most shows are not scheduled to open until after the new year. *On Borrowed Time* will be followed this month by the low-profile Austrian import *Andre Heller's Wonderhouse*, about the birthday party of a 70-year-old dwarf, and Brian Friel's play about five unmarried sisters in Donegal, *Dancing at Lughnasa* — described by

one local magazine as "a London transfer with a name few can pronounce". But only one of the dozen planned musicals — *Nick and Nora*, based on Dashiell Hammett's *The Thin Man* — will see the curtain rise before the end of the year. And most of the season's dramatic highlights, including Paul Simon's rewritten comedy *Jake's Woman* and Herb Gardner's new play *Conversations with my father*, are being held back for next year.

With the box office takings down 6 per cent last year and attendance off 9 per cent, Broadway impresarios now prefer to delay their new offerings until close to the

deadline for Tony award nominations in the spring — hoping an award will help their shows survive. Harvey Sabinson, executive director of the League of American Theaters and Producers, says the traditional Broadway autumn season is almost a thing of the past. The important deadline is the Tony cut-off date, normally 32 days before the first Sunday in June.

Early signs for the 1991-92 season give producers some reason to believe the new structure of the Broadway year could work out to their advantage. With meagre competition, Cameron Mackintosh's three blockbusters *Les Misérables*, *Miss*

Saigon and *The Phantom of the Opera* have all been turning a healthy profit on a week-by-week basis. And perhaps because of the dearth of new musicals *Nick and Nora* is reported to have healthy advance ticket sales.

Perhaps most encouraging is that the new National Actors Theater, a Broadway project that intends to emulate Britain's National Theatre, has signed up 21,000 subscribers before even beginning preview performances.

Cats, meanwhile, started its tenth year on Broadway on Monday night with a special performance for an audience that gave it a prolonged standing ovation at the finale. *Cats* is Broadway's third longest running show. It would have to run until 1996 to top *A Chorus Line*, which closed last year after 6,137 performances.

Early signs for the 1991-92 season give producers some reason to believe the new structure of the Broadway year could work out to their advantage. With meagre competition, Cameron Mackintosh's three blockbusters *Les Misérables*, *Miss*

UN team sees Iraqi super-guns destroyed

New York — United Nations weapons inspectors yesterday supervised the destruction of two Iraqi "super-guns", watching them being divided by welding torches so that they can never be fired.

The smaller of the two guns, about 55 yards long with a 350mm bore, was at a camouflaged site north of Baghdad in the Jabal Hamrin mountains and had been test-fired at a range of about 160 miles.

Parts for a larger 1,000mm bore, 165-yard-long cannon, which the inspectors believe could have had a range of up to 1,000 miles, were split with welding torches at a site south of Baghdad. The gun would have enabled the Iraqis to hit the capitals of Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

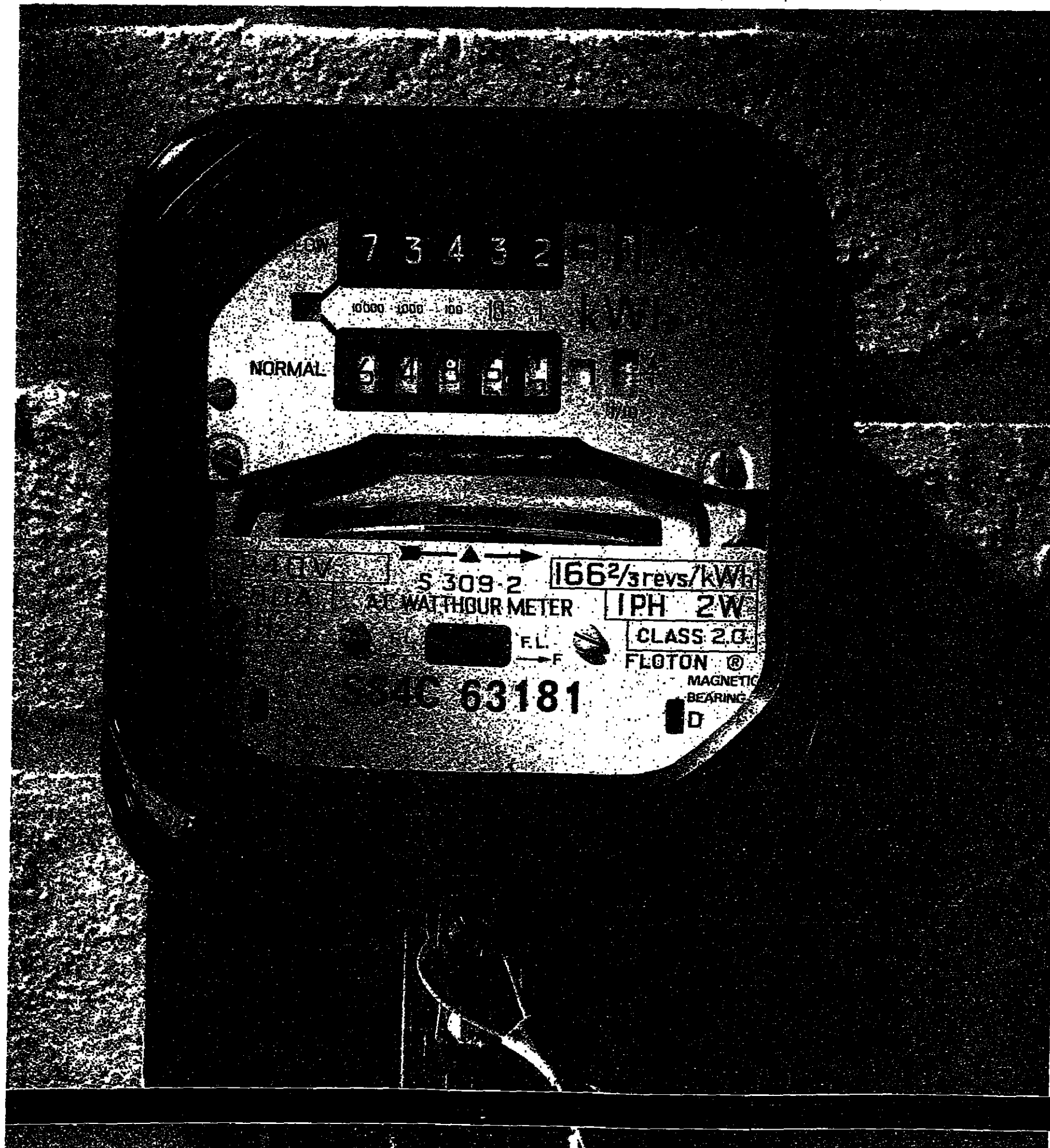
Derek Boothby, an official with the UN special commission supervising the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said the inspectors watched Iraqis using oxy-acetylene burners to cut across the flanges, or projecting rims, of the barrel sections of the larger gun and cutting slits in the barrel sections of the smaller guns. On Monday the inspectors blew up a load of explosive propellant for the smaller guns. (AP)

Plot foiled

Panama City — Panamanian authorities have arrested four former officers for plotting to overthrow President Endara, according to Rogelio Cruz, the country's attorney general. He said all had been officers under General Manuel Noriega. Panama's ousted leader, and that two other officers involved were still at large. (AFP)

Village found

Jerusalem — A water shortage in the Sea of Galilee has uncovered a 19,000-year-old fishing village near the shore, Israel Radio said. The village covers several hundred square yards and comprises remains of mud and brick dwellings, graves and cooking sites. An ancient human skeleton was found last year. (Reuters)



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Yet another Education Bill.

But still no money to pay the bills that matter.

In his speech to the Conservative Party conference yesterday, Mr. Clarke, the Secretary of State for Education, announced a new Education Bill. It will be the fifth such Bill since 1979.

He also repeated that parents should be able to choose the school they want their children to attend.

But in practice this is a phoney choice.

No parent would want their child's school to be crumbling through years of neglect.

Or to have hopelessly overcrowded classes.

Or be chronically short of books and equipment.

Yet, as everybody knows, such conditions exist in

schools across the length and breadth of the country.

And our children are subjected to them every day.

The parents of these children would certainly prefer them to have better conditions – given the choice.

But the fact is, for thousands of parents and children, what they want will not be what they get.

Mr. Clarke, has paid out two million pounds of tax payers' money to publish his glossy brochure which offers parents these phoney choices. He is also able to allocate huge sums of money to encourage schools to "opt-out."

But he made no mention in his speech of the extra money needed to relieve the real crisis in all our schools.

The only policies that will help all our children are those designed to limit class sizes, provide the books and equipment which are needed and replace the crumbling buildings.

This is the bill for education the government should meet.

Only then will we be able to offer the very best education to all our children, not just the chosen few.

The National Union of Teachers.



Western powers struggle to subdue strongman they created



Mobutu: regime has been propped up for 26 years

TRANSLATIONS of the president of Zaire's African name, Mobutu Sese Seko wa za Banga, vary from the official: Mobutu, the warrior who will never be vanquished, to the boastful: Mobutu, the cockerel who covers all the chicks in the farmyard, and the Daliesque: Mobutu, the immortal red hot chili pepper. But the theme of omnipotence is constant.

Western diplomats and their governments in Europe and the United States have been struck by President Mobutu's ability to remain in power after he allowed his armed forces to rampage through Kinshasa, the capital, leaving many shops and factories destroyed. Many diplomats agree privately with Etienne Tshisekedi, the prime minister designate, that Mr Mobutu is a monster. If so, he is a monster made in America, France and Belgium, none of whom can now tame him.

With increasing violence in Zaire, the time may have come for Belgium, France and America to intervene again in the country's affairs, Sam Kiley reports from Kinshasa

The confidence displayed by Mr Mobutu while his country has been drifting without a government for the past two months is derived from the fact that his 26-year-old regime has been regularly propped up by French and Belgian troops and American money. American aid donations to Zaire are estimated to total \$1 billion (£576 million) over the past 20 years. In 1977 the French air force flew Moroccan troops to Shaba to help put down an uprising after Moïse Tshombe's Katangese gendarmes invaded from Angola. The following year another invasion by the gendarmes was defeated after

French paratroops were sent in and the Belgians organised an airlift.

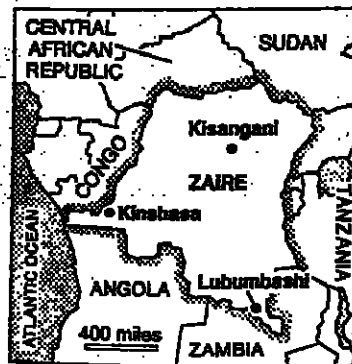
This weekend the Belgian and French ambassadors in Kinshasa said they were withdrawing some of their troops from Zaire as the evacuation of their nationals had been completed. About 1,000 troops remain to keep the peace. Despite the domestic pressure to withdraw all their troops from Zaire, the foreign powers know that the absence of legionnaires and Belgian special forces will provoke an exodus of the expatriates who chose to remain last week.

For the past 26 years Mr Mobutu was seen by the West as a vanguard

against communist intervention in Africa. Zaire, shares borders with nine countries, is four times the size of France, controls 60 per cent of the world's cobalt, is the world's second largest diamond producer and is rich in oil and copper.

With the end of the Cold War the triumvirate of foreign powers are tempted to leave Zaire to its own devices, provided the safety of their citizens can be assured. But when Belgium hastily granted independence to the Belgian Congo in 1960 a subsequent mutiny in the army provoked tens of thousands of Belgian colonial administrators to flee the country. They left Zaire without an effective civil service and precipitated the administrative and economic collapse of a country which should be one of the wealthiest in Africa.

Mr Mobutu and Mr Tshisekedi are deadlocked over the defence and national security portfolios.



Mr Tshisekedi, a former interior minister and a long-time opponent, knows that he cannot form a credible administration if the president remains in control of the armed forces. Mr Mobutu will not hand over control because that would leave him vulnerable — even to his own presidential guard. The situation is desperate and

the rioting last month may be only a warm-up for an orgy of violence that would take an army, not a few companies of foreign troops, to control. Inflation is running at about 3,000 per cent and looted food stocks in Kinshasa will only last a couple of weeks. The economy is in a shambles: almost all the mines have been shut down and communications around the country have been destroyed. The rioting in Zaire two weeks ago by the military came after they were refused a pay rise, and it is not clear how the administration will find the money to pay the army at the end of this month.

It may now be time for the foreign powers to bite the red hot chili pepper and insist that Mr Mobutu becomes a figurehead president or retires to one of his houses in the south of France while they also look for aid to Zaire to good governance.

Township killings threaten accord

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE national peace accord, signed with such a flourish three weeks ago by leaders of the South African government, the ANC, Inkatha and other organisations, was under threat of foundering at its first test yesterday after the killing of 18 blacks by gunmen who opened fire on crowds leaving a township funeral.

Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, said that President de Klerk had "let loose his hounds against the people". He added: "If he does not want the violence why do the police act with such impunity? It is untrue that this is black-on-black violence."

In Stellenbosch, in the western Cape province, President de Klerk launched what was

considered by some observers to be the most bitter attack on the ANC since he lifted the ban on it functioning openly in South Africa 21 months ago. Opening the Cape National party's congress, he accused the ANC of ultimatum politics, and said it had "a long way to go before it can be trusted to play a constructive role in a democratic new South Africa."

Yesterday in Tokoza township southeast of Johannesburg, the scene of the latest killings, a black taxi driver said wearily: "Our leaders have signed the peace accord but nothing seems to work."

The Tokoza killings came after the funeral in the township on Monday of Sam Ntuli, a civic leader shot by un-

known gunmen a week ago. The police denied ANC claims that armed men in a white minibus opened fire on mourners at the graveside.

Gill Marcus, an ANC spokesman, said: "There were many policemen at the scene, but nothing was done to pursue the attackers." Police said the violence occurred as about 12,000 people marched from the funeral. He said police and troops had formed "a human wall" between the marchers and hostel dwellers as the throng went past but it was "impossible to have a policeman on each and every corner".

Yesterday the National Peace Committee was involved in urgent efforts to convene an emergency meeting of its executive to discuss the Tokoza killings, but it was not clear what action it could take because the control and monitoring mechanisms envisaged in the accord have not yet been set up.

Hernus Kriel, the law and order minister, urged people not to see the Tokoza killings and other recent violence as evidence that the peace accord was failing. "Don't see it in that light. The peace accord is still in the process of being implemented," he said.

But he added an implied criticism of organisers of the funeral by asking: "Are we not creating points of conflict with big political meetings, funerals and so on?" Both the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party yesterday refrained from blaming each other's supporters for the violence, although Inkatha described as "killing talk" remarks by an ANC leader at the funeral that "we expect them to return fire with fire and bullets with bullets".

An ANC spokesman said tersely: "With regard to the killing talk, it is killing bodies we are concerned about." He conceded: "Of course, this is a threat to the national peace accord. As long as the violence continues people will become increasingly frustrated."

● Canberra: The Commonwealth might have no role once the South African issue is settled, says R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister. Mr Botha, on a three-day visit to Australia, said that while he thought the Commonwealth was important, the apartheid issue and South Africa had helped bind its members together. (Reuters)

R. W. Johnson, page 18



Driving force: General Raoul Cedras, commander-in-chief of the Haitian armed forces, leaving with his bodyguards after meeting a delegation from the Organisation of American States at Port-au-Prince airport. The meeting ended abruptly when soldiers burst in the building.

Troops force parliament to name judge as president

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

PROSPECTS for Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti appeared bleak yesterday after soldiers stormed parliament and forced the members to name a supreme court judge to replace the ousted president.

Meanwhile, a group of western hemisphere foreign ministers, back from a confrontation on Monday with soldiers in Haiti, met in private in Washington yesterday to discuss ways of returning Fr Aristide to power. Fr Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected president, was ousted in a coup on September 30. At least 150 people are thought to have been killed since then.

Members of the Haitian parliament said they had agreed to install a provisional president on Monday only at gunpoint. The state-run television reported that Joseph Nerette, who was appointed a supreme court justice in 1988 while Haiti was under military control, had been designated to replace Fr Aristide. It was not known whether he would accept.

The delegation from the

Organization of American States returned to Washington late on Monday after soldiers burst into a building where they were meeting the armed forces' commander-in-chief, General Raoul Cedras, at Port-au-Prince international airport. The soldiers were trying to stop any deal that would reinstate Fr Aristide.

The Canadian foreign minister, Barbara McDougall, whose plane carried the shaken delegates back from Port-au-Prince, said they were near to an agreement with Haitian officials when the delegates decided to leave, the Canadian news agency Canpress reported. "I felt we were close to an agreement, yes, that would include President Aristide's return," she said as she entered the OAS headquarters in Washington yesterday.

The delegation — eight foreign ministers or deputies and the OAS secretary-general — left Haiti hurriedly after soldiers entered the airport and told them that the runway lights would not be turned on

after dark, Canpress said. "We knew that after that with soldiers around the airport, there would be lives in danger," Ms McDougall said.

As Ms McDougall flew back to Washington with the other OAS delegates, she said: "Nobody is in power in Haiti. It's not the parliament, not the prime minister, it's not General Cedras," Canpress reported.

Most Haitians were unaware of what happened at the Legislative Palace on Monday because independent radio stations, the main source of news in Haiti, were either not broadcasting or played only music. Sporadic gunfire was heard throughout the night in the capital.

People ventured out at first light yesterday and many went to work but traffic was much lighter than usual. Soldiers patrolled markets and streets as some shops opened, while other security forces drove around in lorries. The Legislative Palace was locked and a small contingent of soldiers guarded the entrance.

Photo of US pilot found to be fake

FROM NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

A MAN in his 60s presented in the American media as a US Navy pilot held prisoner in Laos is a poor hill farmer whose father was French, according to a foreign ministry official in Vietnam. The deception is the third in three months involving fake photographs of Americans purportedly held prisoner in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

More than 2,200 Americans are listed as missing from the Indo-China war, 500 of them in Laos. Lieutenant Daniel Borah was shot down in western Vietnam. His father in Illinois immediately identified the man in the photograph as his son. The pilot's brother agreed. American officials conceded that the man did bear a strong resemblance to the pilot's father and brother as they are now.

The Laotian foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that the man in the photograph was a hill tribe farmer named Ahrou. Aged 66, about the same age as Borah would be today, Ahrou has a 45-year-old wife and five children. The spokesman blamed "bad elements" for the deception, which, he said, was meant to sabotage improving relations between Laos and the United States.

American officials said they had taken the photograph seriously because it was feasible for the man in it to have been Lieutenant Borah. He was one of a small number on the missing in action list known to have been alive after they had been shot down. Pilots in the air had seen him moving about on the ground after shedding his parachute. The Americans say his case is still open, and very much a priority in current discussions with Vietnam and Laos. Washington refuses to normalise relations with Vietnam until the MIA issue is resolved.

The deceivers believe they can make money from American families who pray that their missing sons and husbands are still alive in southeast Asia. There is also a belief that information about missing Americans provides free entry to the US.

Togo leader escapes kidnapping

Lomé — Violent clashes erupted yesterday after mutinous Togoese troops tried to kidnap Joseph Koffigoh, the prime minister, and a soldier killed over pro-democracy protests, Kokouvi Massame, the security minister said.

It was the third attempt in a week to oust Mr Koffigoh's interim government, which is trying to end the 23-year military rule under President Eyadéma Mr Massame said the situation was out of control in the Tokoin district. Witnesses said protesters ransacked the homes of two former ministers of General Eyadéma, who was stripped of his powers on August 27 by a national conference for democracy and clashed with military and civilian supporters of the general. (AP)

● Manila — Philippines court ordered the government to give Imelda Marcos a passport, saying she was no longer a threat to national security. The former first lady went into exile in the United States when her husband Ferdinand was overthrown in 1986. She plans to return on November 4. (Reuters)

● American freed — Alkeas, South Carolina — Jon Patis, aged 5, an engineer who was held for five years in an Iranian prison on spying charges, had a joyous homecoming after his release without publicity. The State Department said in 1986 that Mr Patis had been working for the American government. (AP)

● Pullout deal — Warsaw — The Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw its 45,000 troops from Poland by the end of 1992 paving the way for a treaty normalising relations between the two countries, the Polish foreign ministry said. "Warsaw had initially said, the troops had to leave by the end of 1991." (Reuters)

● Trapped by bull — Helsinki — Matti Pura, the Finnish agriculture minister, was injured when an 880 lb bull on his farm near here lunged at him, tipping him between a rail and concrete floor. He is now recovering from surgery. (AP)

Voodoo priest learns art of silent survival

HAITI NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

Andre Cajuste has 47 children by 15 wives and too many grandchildren to count, but he really went to see him because he is one of Haiti's most powerful hougans, or voodoo priests — a man to quize about the latest coup.

Clad in a pair of ancient shorts, he reclined serenely in a battered red rocking chair in the shade beside his hut, two puppies asleep at his feet. His was clearly the pick of the various dilapidated hovels — not to mention pigs, goats, chickens, urchins and an occasional straggly tree — that littered the big dirt compound on the edge of the town of St Marc. It was painted vivid yellow with garish red doors and windows.

"Everything is happening, but nothing is happening," the great man replied when asked about President Aristide's removal. "Everyone has their thoughts. Nobody understands anything," he replied even more delphically when pressed. Once a Tonton Macoute, he knows that you do not commit yourself until the lay of the land is clear, and only then for a hefty fee.

The two-hour drive up the coast from Port-au-Prince underscored

how every misfortune that could befall this unfortunate island has done so. Abandoned luxury hotels were victims of a tourist industry killed off by the rumour that Aids began in Haiti. Fortless-like walls surround the seashore retreats of the exiled Duvalier family, built to ensure the dictators never encountered their impoverished vassals. There is an abandoned £12 million soya bean plant, "Baby Doc" Duvalier's great white elephant.

A lone American-owned factory was a reminder of how American businesses are fleeing to Costa Rica. Acres of barren land testified to the topsoil erosion caused by deforestation that has left less than a third of Haiti arable, and children's reddening hair to the chronic malnutrition that helps to kill a quarter of them before the age of five.

This, incredibly, was once a lush tropical island producing an abundance of sugar, coffee, indigo, spices and fruit, the jewel of the French empire before half a million slaves rose up and defeated Napoleon, declaring Haiti an independent black republic in 1804. Haiti's finest moment was followed by 137 years of a

deterioration hastened by one king, two emperors, nine presidents for life and five different regimes in the past five years alone. A 90-minute flight from Miami, three-quarters of the 6.2 million Haitians are illiterate, their average life expectancy is 54 years.

47 children, 15 wives and they call him a wise man



and 10 per cent of the population owns almost all the nation's wealth. Eventually there had to be a Father Aristide. Born in the Port-au-Prince slums 38 years ago, the Silesian Fathers rescued him, taught him, and sent him to study in Israel, Canada and England. He was ordained in



Sam Nujoma: holds the Queen in high esteem

People's Organisation (Swapo) — its name a curious anachronism — has abandoned marxist rhetoric in favour of free-market principles, and it respects a liberal constitution containing arguably the most advanced bill of rights in Africa.

The legacy of apartheid remains, notably in disparities in education and wealth, with capital largely controlled by the white minority. Local newspapers bemoan a sharp rise in urban crime, partly attributed to unemployment, which is estimated at more

than 35 per cent in Windhoek. Yet a superficial harmony prevails among the races and tribes that make up the country's 1.5 million population.

There has been no exodus among the 70,000 whites, whose anxieties were judiciously addressed by appointing white businessmen to the important cabinet posts of finance and agriculture. The only political furor was precipitated by President Sam Nujoma's guards, who terrorised the populace by firing shots at drivers if they refused to pull over as they sped along the country's roads. The guards have now been withdrawn for retraining.

It is perhaps a measure of Mr Nujoma's esteem for the Queen that her motorcade proceeded through Windhoek yesterday at such a sedate pace. It is the Queen's first visit to the region since she celebrated her 21st birthday in South Africa in 1947, and fulfils a desire to visit every member of the Commonwealth.

It is a matter of conjecture what the farmers of Ovambo will make of the Queen's visit when she tours the flat, sandy region near the Angolan border today. At least her motorcade will make a change from the South African armoured vehicles that roared into battle against Swapo guerrillas little more than two years ago.

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Killer driver

M25 men name

PC for trial

Number tapped

Signing up

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Parents kept in dark about allegations of sex abuse

By KERRY GILL

POLICE involved in the seizure of nine Orkney children after allegations of sexual abuse ordered social workers not to give the parents details of the allegations made against them, it emerged yesterday.

Police sent to the four families' homes on South Ronaldsay were directed to give the parents only a vague explanation as to why their children were being taken into care, Susan Millar, the senior social worker involved in the operation, told the judicial enquiry before Lord Clyde.

The police had insisted on as much secrecy as possible before the children were taken as they then intended to detain and question parents about the allegations made by three children, aged seven, eight and nine, from another family, the Ws. Normally, said Mrs Millar, the parents would have been given a full explanation of the allegations.

She told how at an evening meeting on February 26, the night before the seizures, the police said they had obtained search warrants covering each of the four families, the home of Mrs W, whose children

made the original allegations, and that of the Rev Morris McKenzie, the Church of Scotland minister on South Ronaldsay. They intended to detain three sets of parents, of the B, M and T families, for questioning.

Mrs Millar went on to say that there were worries about any belongings the parents might try to give the children. They stemmed from toy turtle presents that were sent to Mrs W's children, already in care, at Christmas and which, social workers felt, might have had sexual connotations. "We then knew from the three corroborative statements that the children had been dressed in turtle suits when they were taken to be abused," she said.

Donald Macdavey, QC, for the Crown, asked if this was not withstanding the fact that turtles were a very popular children's present at the time. Mrs Millar said: "We didn't fully understand at that stage what might be meant but we were concerned in the context of some very strange correspondence."

Family of seven tried for fraud

Seven members of a Northampton-based family were alleged yesterday to have been involved in a £1.5 million mortgage fraud, involving 56 properties over eight years.

They face 75 charges at Oxford crown court of conspiracy and of obtaining or attempting to obtain mortgages by deception, and cheating to obtain tax relief.

Ian Alexander, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury selected yesterday: "It is an overwhelming feature of this case how all these activities were kept in the one family."

Killer driver

Lee Smythe, a joyrider who killed a girl aged 17 when he crashed into her car, was sentenced to three months in a young offenders' institution for Liverpool crown court.

Smythe, of Netherley, Merseyside, admitted causing death by reckless driving.

M25 men named

The two men killed in a crash on the M25 on Monday have been named as Ronald Davey, aged 59, a taxi driver, of Flyfield, Guildford, Surrey, and his passenger Alan Gallagher, aged 35, of Connecticut, United States.

PC for trial

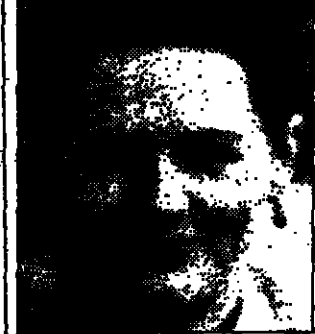
Police Constable Robert Hamilton, aged 33, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, elected trial by jury on charges of gross indecency and assaulting police officers. Derek Turnbull, aged 52, of South Shields, was charged with gross indecency with Mr Hamilton.

Number tapped

British Telecom halted the distribution of thousands of telephone books in Reading, Berkshire, after a customer saw his home number included in an advertisement for Thames Water.

Signing up

An autograph book containing the signatures of Queen Victoria, Gladstone, Disraeli and Buffalo Bill is expected to fetch £16,000 at auction in Nottingham in December.



Miller: parents would normally have full details

£15.2m opera house planned for Edinburgh

A BINGO hall in Edinburgh is to be transformed into a theatre with the largest stage in Britain for opera, ballet, musicals and drama.

The announcement of the £15.2 million plan yesterday brings to an end years of dispute and founded schemes for an opera house in the city, the absence of which has been an increasing embarrassment to the Edinburgh Festival.

The Empire Theatre, in Nicolson Street, originally a variety theatre, will take its third manifestation when it opens late in 1993, 101 years after the original was built as the first of Edward Moss's string of Empire music halls. The new Empire will be the envy of London, which has been striving in vain to establish a lyric theatre with an international size stage.

The Empire Theatre Trust is to be formed with George Younger, the former secretary of state for Scotland and defence secretary, as chairman. The £15.2 million is to come from public and private funding to create a theatre which would cost £50 million to build from scratch.

The present theatre was built in 1928 and its unremarkable facade is to be

Edinburgh's new theatre, with the largest stage in Britain, will be the envy of London. Simon Tait reports on the end of a long wait

replaced by a cliff of curved glass enclosing a box office, foyers, cafe bar and shop on three storeys. The auditorium, for which the theatre is listed, is the only part which will remain and is to be restored by Theatre Projects.

The stage will be flat to accommodate ballet and, at 906 square metres, will be larger than either the Royal Opera House or Coliseum stages in London, and three times the size of the present Empire stage.

Although the chairmen of both the Glasgow-based Scottish National Opera and Scottish National Ballet were at yesterday's launch it is unlikely that either company will switch permanent allegiance. They will, however, establish Edinburgh seasons. One point of regret for Lady Dalkeith, the chairman of Scottish National Ballet, was the lack of ballet rehearsal room, but the



Contrast in styles: an artist's impression (left) of the £15.2 million opera house planned for Edinburgh, and (right) the facade of the bingo hall it will replace



premises should be looked at as potential Festival offices. There is also space for the later building of a multi-storey car park to serve the theatre.

Edinburgh city council, which has bought the theatre, is to provide the largest tranche of finance with £6.8 million. Other contributors are Lothian Edinburgh Enterprises Ltd, Historic Scotland (the Scottish equivalent of English Heritage), the Scottish Arts Council, Lothian regional council, and the Scottish Tourist Board. The private sector is to be asked for about £3 million to complete the package.

The first Empire was built in 1892 and it became a prime music hall venue until 1911 when an illusionist called Lafayette set fire to the stage drapes and the theatre was destroyed, with Lafayette and his lion among those who perished. The audience escaped unscathed. The Empire was rebuilt in 1928 and in 1963 it was bought by Mecca and became a bingo hall. This year it was hastily converted to be a Festival venue when the Royal Lyceum Theatre was late in reopening after a £4 million refurbishment.



"I can use my skills and I'll get an up-to-date reference too."

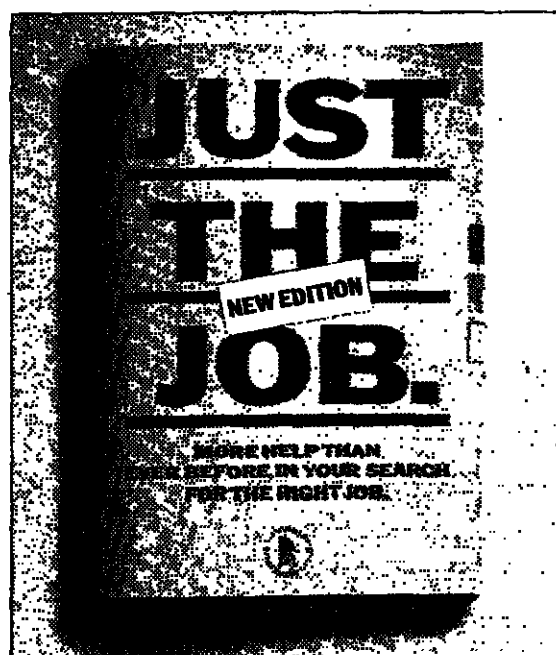
EMPLOYMENT ACTION PAGE 21

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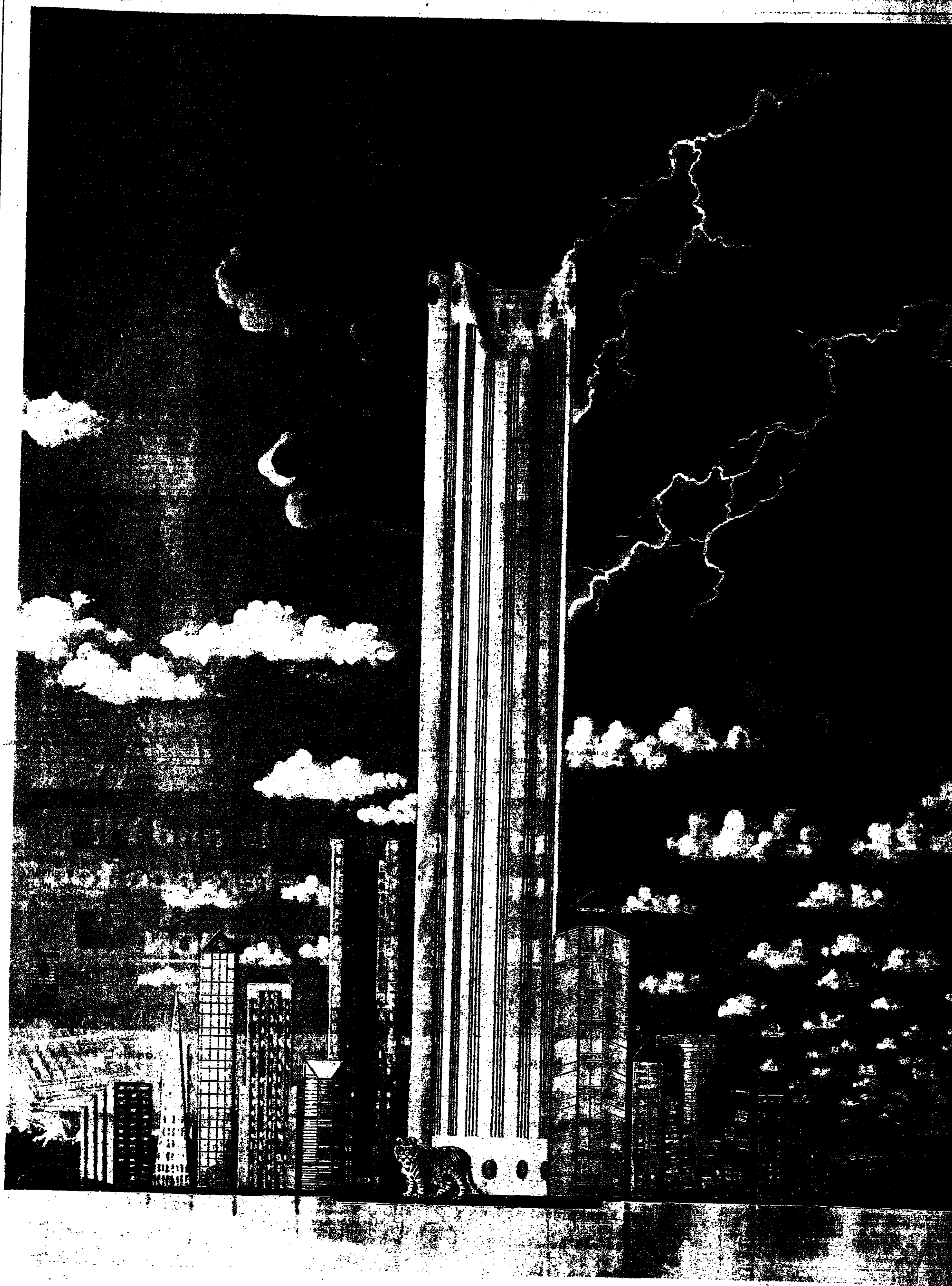
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WILDING
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Centre cannot hold as Yugoslav federation spins out of control

Ethnic roots exposed in a nation's ruins

By ROGER BOYES, EASTERN EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

CENTRAL authority has collapsed in Yugoslavia. Politicians with whom the West did business such as Ante Markovic, the federal prime minister, have either disappeared or have been condemned to political obscurity.

That much became obvious this week, as Stipe Mesic, the federal president, dashed for cover from the bombs hurled at his office by the aircraft of General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister. Mr Markovic described the action as "attempted assassination"; but nobody listens and, indeed, nobody listens.

Yugoslavia has died as a federation. There is no longer a national system of banking, telephones, railways, airports or a national airline. There is no real budget.

Diplomats resign in America

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

TWO Yugoslav consular officials of Croatian background resigned their posts in New York and Chicago on Tuesday to protest against Yugoslav military attacks in Croatia.

Zdravko Stojanovic, consul in Chicago, and Ivo Segedin, deputy consul general in New York, announced their resignations at a news conference in Washington. "I don't consider myself to be a Yugoslav diplomat anymore," Stojanovic said.

The former diplomats and Croatia's representative to the United States, Frane Golem, have urged US intervention. The three said Monday's air attack on Zagreb was in effect a coup against the Yugoslav government.

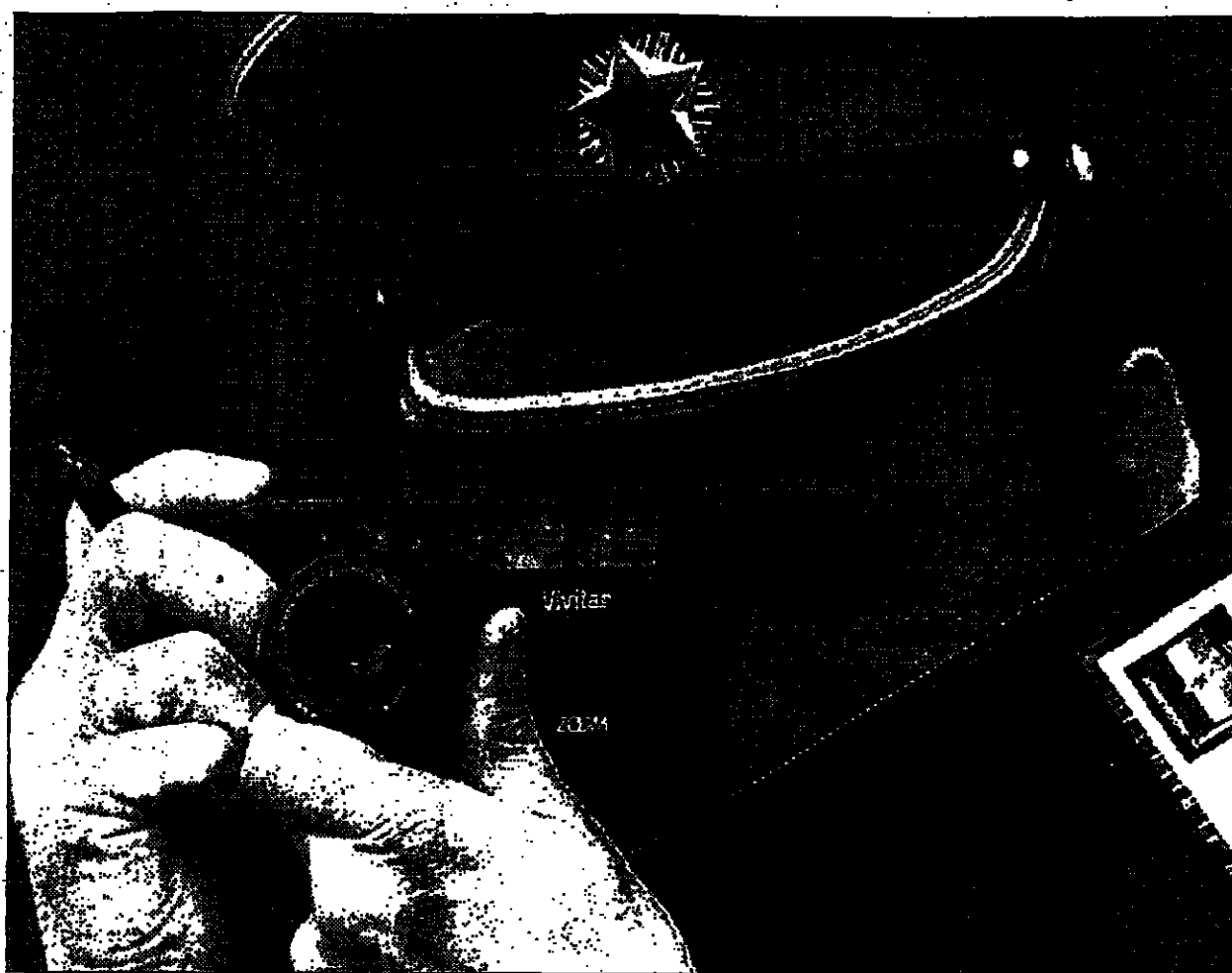
institution, the army, has aligned itself with Serbia. The army is paid for by printing more and more money in Belgrade—making a nonsense of the International Monetary Fund-supported anti-inflation programme of Mr Markovic.

The chairman of the Yugoslav federal presidency, Dr Mesic, has been declared redundant by the Serb-dominated bloc: Serbia, Montenegro, Vojvodina and Kosovo. That is supposed to undermine his appeals to the West for UN or European Community intervention.

Many of the key actors in the Yugoslav confrontation have been Croats—President Franjo Tudjman, of course, but also Dr Mesic and Mr Markovic. Even General Kadijevic has a Croat mother and wife. Until this summer, the defence minister described himself as a "Yugoslav"; now he only calls himself a soldier. Former Croat acquaintances say he is not only seriously ill (with cancer) but also deeply disoriented. "He is at war with himself," wrote a Croat journalist recently.

The EC is used to responding to appeals from governments. Yet Mr Markovic has even less authority than Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and President Tudjman. For the past two years it has been EC policy to try to boost central government in Yugoslavia. But the more support Mr Markovic was given by the West, the more vulnerable he became.

Serbia, with its concentration of heavy industry, felt it was a target of Mr Markovic's Westernised economic policies. Serbs never forgot that Mr Markovic was a Croat. The prime minister tried to transcend his roots and create a modern, pluralistic Yugoslavia.

Croatia calm, page 1
Diary, page 18

Far from the fray: a Yugoslav federal army officer photographing military hardware at the Twenthe airbase in The Netherlands, the first Nato member to allow inspections after a Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe pact

Home guard sets up defences in Zagreb

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

THE rocket attack on the elegant Zagreb offices of Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, on Monday has spawned a Balkan dad's army to barricade the Croatian capital against a ground attack they fear may still come despite the latest truce.

Unshaven, twitchy, and without military uniforms, the motley band boasts nothing more powerful than ancient hunting rifles or the occasional AK 47 with which to resist the Yugoslav army.

As the vigilantes brandished their antiquated weapons and screamed abuse at anyone trying to cross the barricades, one resident said: "We feel trapped like flies in a jam jar. Everyone I know is already suffering psychological effects from this war. These are now going to get worse."

As barriers were set up all over the city after a night which deprived many of the one million residents of sleep and induced a new mood of panic, the few who ventured out looked in disbelief at the men gathered to defend them. They looked more like poachers than a force capable of resisting a powerful military machine.

As the vigilantes brandished their antiquated weapons and screamed abuse at anyone trying to cross the barricades, one resident said: "We feel trapped like flies in a jam jar. Everyone I know is already suffering psychological effects from this war. These are now going to get worse."

The new and relentless federal and Serbian pressure on the Croatian capital, one of the most picturesque in Europe, was the prelude to a full-scale ground assault to follow the air raids. "Those are just softening us up," one shopkeeper said.

During the night, sirens wailed as the federal forces showed that air power is their greatest strength. The mood of unease was heightened by repeated small arms and rocket fire in the city centre. This was blamed by Croats on Serbian snipers. The darkness caused by a government decision to cut off all electricity and ban candles, described as "a defensive measure", made people more uneasy.

The sky was lit up by flares and tracer bullets for the first time since fighting began.

"Many of these people with guns are now completely out of control. They seem to want a fight; in fact, I think they want to die," said Natasha, a Zagreb travel agent, aged 30.

The woefully ill-equipped volunteers at the new anti-tank barricades looked exhausted yesterday, unsure of their exact military role and uncertain how their unorthodox barricades would stand up to a tank assault. "It is like putting out a scarecrow to frighten away the birds," one Zagreb intellectual said. "If they come in the numbers that we expect, it will have no effect at all."

Howls of outrage at scuppered bid

Free marketeers in the EC have scored a key victory in quashing a bid which would have stifled competition, George Brock writes

When Sir Leon Brittan persuaded the EC commission to stop a Franco-Italian consortium buying a Canadian aerospace firm, he lit the fuse for a political explosion which is still reverberating across the community.

Sir Leon had swung a handful of key votes to make the first real use of the EC's tough powers to block mergers likely to suffocate free competition in the EC. Aerospaciale, the French aeronautics giant whose purchase for the aircraft makers, De Havilland, was refused, had been convinced that its bid would be allowed. The French political establishment only realised what had happened several days later. Howls of outrage followed from Paris.

Sir Leon's victory was a significant gain in the free marketeers' long fight to carve out rules which will promote competition against the calls for an EC "industrial policy". France and Italy, backed by the weaker southern economies of the community, are arguing more vocally than ever for expensive schemes to subsidise European firms in world markets. Sir Leon doggedly pursues his quest for real competition in a hostile political climate and with a small band of unreliable allies on the 17-member EC commission.

With the single market of 1992 looming and the arrival of the protectionist Madame Edith Cresson at the head of the French government, the spirit of the 17th-century mercantilist statesman Jean-Baptiste Colbert lives on in Paris. Sir Leon, who last year only managed to force the French carmaker Renault to repay half of an enormous government subsidy, faces further battles this year over planned state money for Air France and the Italian car

manufacturer, Fiat. The outburst of French indignation at the blocking of the de Havilland bid produced a rich crop of delicious ironies for governments and individuals who have been sneered at in the past by the French for lacking true enthusiasm for Europe. The French press is now filled with daily denunciations of the EC for overstepping its powers, some of them couched in language which would not be out of place in a Bruges Group pamphlet. A string of French ministers been paraded to propose rewriting the community's rules so that the affront can be reversed and any reputation prevented. The ministers seldom refer to the fact that the EC's merger regulation received the unanimous assent of all 12 EC governments including France in 1989—at a meeting chaired by the present French prime minister Mme Edith Cresson.

The episode has stripped away the mask of European rhetoric which French politicians habitually use to cover national economic policy. "What this shows," said one EC official, "is that as far as the French are concerned, if Europe isn't France, it isn't Europe. They have run the community as a major part of their foreign policy: look at the way Delors has been put on the spot. He was interviewed about the De Havilland decision as if he was a national minister being asked to justify a domestic policy."

The principal target of the unusual broadsides fired from Paris is not "Sir Brittan", as he is frequently known, but the French president of the EC commission, Jacques Delors. M Delors is frequently touted as a possible successor to the unpopular Mme Cresson.

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The Emma Brodie case: why was Carol Ann Barratt released to kill?

A disaster just waiting to happen

It can take three people to commit mental patients, but only one to release them.

Peter Barnard considers a recent case and its implications for public safety

The walk that Emma Brodie, aged 11, took with her 18-year-old sister Alison one Tuesday morning in April was a mere 200 yards and held no intrinsic danger. Two stable children from a stable background, making a journey to a shopping centre, in daylight.

Unfortunately for Emma, her path and that of Carol Ann Barratt (née Richardson) were converging. Barratt was not stable, either in herself or in her background. She claimed to hear voices, notably the voice of her dead grandfather, who had told her to kill a girl called Stephanie because she was "evil".

The girl Barratt actually killed that morning, outside the Tandy electrical shop in the modern, well-lit Frenchgate shopping centre in Doncaster, was Emma Brodie.

They were strangers. Barratt simply ran towards Emma and plunged a knife into her chest.

Barratt, aged 24, was apprehended and, last Wednesday, she was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to be detained indefinitely. She is in Rampton hospital.

Already the shutters have closed around most of the principals in a case that raises questions about the operation of the Mental Health Act, about spending on the NHS, about the responsibility placed on individual doctors.

Trent regional health authority has criticised the key medical figure in the case, Dr Neil Silvester of Doncaster royal infirmary, for making a "serious clinical error" in agreeing to Barratt's release from the psychiatric unit at the infirmary. That release was on the evening of April 14, three days after a mental health review tribunal, consisting of a lawyer, a psychiatrist and a lay person, had rejected her request to be discharged on the ground that she posed a danger and less than two days before Emma was killed.

Yesterday, Ronald and Valerie Brodie, Emma's parents, who run The Plough public house in Doncaster, were closeted with lawyers, discussing what action they can take. Mr Brodie said: "Somebody is responsible for this. We want to see justice done."

Next week, Trent's regional medical officer will meet Dr Silvester, who is not at work and will not give interviews. According to Brian Edwards, the authority's regional general manager: "There are three options: to do nothing, to initiate some

action, such as retraining, or to take disciplinary action." The last of those options involves a hearing before an independent QC.

So in this case there is much talk of procedures, acts of Parliament and legal action. Indeed one of Barratt's lawyers, Mark Wood, says that Barratt may also take action on the ground that had she not not been released the killing would not have happened and Barratt would not now be in Rampton.

One of the few, and one of the most important, certainties is that Dr Silvester was acting within his rights under the Mental Health Act. But if it took three signatures to put Barratt in the royal infirmary (see box right) why did it take only one person to release her?

New guidelines will come into force in the next three months which will make that almost, but not quite, impossible. These changes have been formulated by a committee established by the health department and the Royal College of Psychiatry after a case in London last year when a social worker was killed by a discharged patient.

The key factor is the concept of "the responsible medical officer, who has the power to discharge a patient," says Professor Bruce Pitt, the public education officer at the Royal College of Psychiatrists. "Normally he would consult other members of the team but we have been working with the health department on more formal release provisions."

These will involve consultation in advance with the family, the GP and the social services, together with follow-up meetings and the provision of a "key worker" responsible for monitoring the progress of the patient in the community. But Professor Pitt reflects the view of many psychiatrists when he says: "Where will the money come from to fund this? There is no extra money, so this is being put in place in the hope that the various professions involved can make it work from existing resources."

Although the system does not supersede the provisions in the Mental Health Act allowing single-doctor approval, the change would give serious pause to any doctor proposing to grant a release. It appears that in the Barratt case from her release until the attack there was no professional monitoring of her whereabouts. The Trent authority's enquiry report expressed "deep concern"



Fatal meeting: Emma Brodie, left, and, right, Carol Ann Richardson pictured at her wedding to Matthew Barratt in Doncaster in 1989

that the release had happened without an assessment of Barratt's condition on the day.

Another serious problem, even under the present arrangements, has to do with the provision of secure psychiatric units in hospitals. When asked if it were true that there was a shortage of secure psychiatric accommodation in the north, Mr Edwards of the Trent authority said: "We are under pressure to find adequate accommodation for the number of patients we are asked to take." Did that mean yes? "Yes," he said.

As long ago as 1975 the Butler Committee set up to review services for mentally abnormal offenders, said that there should be

2,000 medium secure beds in Britain. Dr Pamela Taylor, the head of medical services for the special hospitals service authority, says that to date there are only between 600-650 such beds. The result is that many people who need proper psychiatric treatment are kept in prisons, where at least security is more or less guaranteed. Treatment is often another matter. But the obvious Catch-22 is that before people can go to prison, they have to commit a crime.

Barratt is a classic case of someone with a personality disorder, a disaster waiting to happen. She was a loner, bullied at school, apparently unhappy at home, which she had left at the age

of 19 to live alone in a council flat. She had a drink problem. She spent various short spells as a voluntary patient in psychiatric units. Over the years she came to the attention of the police several times.

Detective Chief Inspector Alan Simpson, who led the Emma Brodie investigation, says: "We had known about Barratt since she was 14. There were various incidents, shouting at people in public and so on, and there had been a charge of disturbing the peace. But there was nothing especially serious until the incident on March 30 when she tried to attack another girl, but was disarmed."

Barratt's commitment to the royal

infirmary's psychiatric wing on that day marked the beginning of an 18-day period which ended in an avoidable tragedy. But hindsight needs to be exercised with care. Many psychiatrists are concerned at the "damned if we do, damned if we don't" label that their judgments can attract.

One, who has a peripheral involvement in the Barratt case, said: "We are in danger of being in the position occupied by social workers in child abuse cases. None of us wants to keep people locked up unnecessarily, but often, and especially in the case of people with broad personality disorders as opposed to specific psychiatric illnesses, we are asked to make

extremely difficult judgments about future behaviour."

Dr Taylor believes that it would be wrong to take away the ultimate responsibility for discharging people from individual doctors, provided there is proper consultation. "We are quite good at predicting the potential for danger in people provided we make very clear limits," she says. "We can say that a person is not likely to be dangerous if he or she is looked after in a certain way in a secure environment."

The hope is that the new guidelines will produce the best of both worlds. Like all reform it comes too late for those whose experience induces it.

Countdown to a death



Criticised: psychiatrist Dr Neil Silvester

● DR NEIL SILVESTER has been a consultant psychiatrist at the Doncaster royal infirmary since 1986.

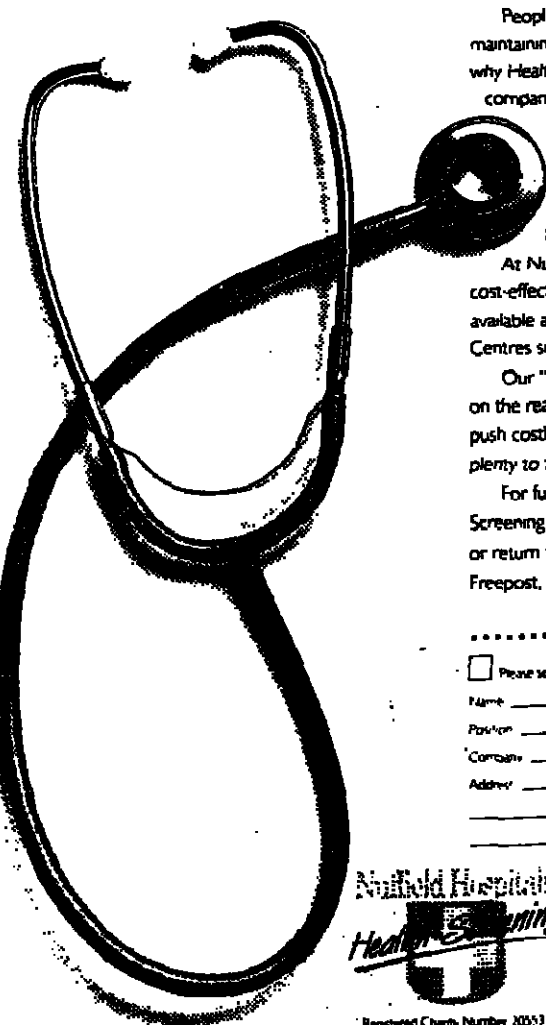
● Carol Ann Barratt was admitted to the infirmary's psychiatric unit, under section 2 of the Mental Health Act, after she threatened a girl with a knife at a Doncaster shopping centre on March 30.

● "Sectioning" involves different requirements depending on the length of time of commitment. A GP, plus the nearest relative, or a social worker, can have someone detained for up to three days whereas two doctors — one a psychiatrist — plus a relative or social worker are needed for a 28-day commitment.

● Barratt's commitment was sanctioned by a GP, a police surgeon and a social worker. On April 11, a mental health review tribunal refused her application to be discharged.

● On April 14 Barratt's mother is said to have demanded her release, although she denies this. Dr Silvester agreed, in exchange for a written undertaking that the mother would take full responsibility. On April 16 Barratt returned to the centre, and stabbed Emma Brodie.

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The Solution to Fear of Flying will be the first of a new season of workshops offered by the Keil Centre, a psychological services centre founded in Edinburgh in 1983, which is holding an open day on Friday, Dr David Weeks of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital is the keynote speaker on "The Psychological versus the Medical Solution". The day is open to medical professionals as well as parents, managers and educationalists.

The centre's "fear of flying" session takes place during the weekend of November 2 and 3 at its address of 5 South Lauder Road, Edinburgh (031-667 8059). On the Saturday evening techniques to fight anxiety attacks will be taught, and a pilot will explain the

procedures, noises and vibrations associated with take-off, flight and landing. A flight video will be shown in the afternoon, anxiety management techniques will be practised, and there will be a question and answer session with the pilot and psychologist. On the Sunday, the session moves to Edinburgh airport, with British Airways ground staff discussing individual concerns before a trip on the 1pm flight to London. There will be lunch at Heathrow, a tour of the airport, and a return journey to Edinburgh at 5pm.

The cost is £338, including VAT and the two accompanied flights. Applications and enquiries about the open day and other facilities to the centre at the address above.

Needle magic all stitched up

FOLLOWING through the Japanese theme which has dominated so much of the month, the fifth annual Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, London, from October 24 to 27, will feature Japanese crafts such as ikebana, the embroidery techniques of temari and sashiko, kumihimo braiding, and kimekomi doll-making, as well as exhibitions of spinning, canework, dried flower-arranging and other not strictly knitting or stitching skills. The first ever Kaffe Fassett-designed bedspread will be displayed in the needlepoint expert's unique "vision of a bedroom", and Bonhams will show how to furnish a drawing room with "20th century collectables" for under £2,000. Tickets, available before tomorrow at £4.30 per adult instead of £6, are obtainable from: Expression — The Knitting and Stitching Show, 46 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London SE4 1YB (081-692 8848).

And this autumn has produced a fruitful harvest of

needlework books, with no fewer than seven lavishly illustrated volumes since the end of September. The best include Hayati Palumbo's *Tapissierie: The Art of Needlepoint* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), with photographs of the homes of famous needlepoint aficionados, and Freda Parker's *Victorian Patchwork* (Anaya, £17.99), published on Monday, with detailed instructions for everything from pincushions to quilts. Look out also for Anne Ellis's *Needlepoint For The Home* (Batsford, £15.95), published next Thursday, which concentrates on practical instructions for kilims and curtain tie-backs, and Juliet Bawden's *The Art and Craft of Applique* (Octopus, £14.99, October 31), which shows how to make applique picture frames and "3-D" pictures to put in them.

Oranges not the only juice?

AFTER the success of *Camra* (the campaign for real ale) could the Campaign for Natural Orange Juice be far behind? The juice in cartons and bottles proclaiming "pure or-

ange juice" can vary tremendously — from freshly squeezed to pulverised pulp. It may be pasteurised or given UHT (ultra heat treatment) for longer shelf-life, altering the flavour and losing some of the vitamin content in the process. The Campaign for Natural Orange Juice aims to educate consumers about the different types of juice available. For a free leaflet on "Oranges — The Natural Choice", send an SAE to: The Campaign for Natural Orange Juice, 26 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6BT.

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THE Suffolk Herbs "Seeds By Post" catalogue offers more than 260 varieties of organically produced seeds for herbs, wild flowers, cottage flowers and vegetables. The company says that all its seeds are "free from any chemical dressing applied post harvest". The 1991-2 catalogue is available free from Suffolk Herbs, Sawyers Farm, Little Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0NY (0787 227247).

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MEDIA WATCH

Fax and info

THE day has yet to be chosen, but the countdown has begun in earnest now that ITV companies and their challengers have received the fax that tells them when to expect the fax that will tell them when to stand by their faxes for the good, or bad, franchise news. The Independent Television Commission's ten-member jury, gearing up for what could be its final sitting tomorrow afternoon, will put its armory of 40-odd faxes through a test run on Friday. Bidders will be faxed guidance on when to expect the result. Most expect the news next Wednesday or Thursday, but if the commission decides to invoke the exceptional circumstances clause to award a licence to a lower cash bidder, the result could be delayed for at least another week. In that case, all companies involved in an exceptional circumstances enquiry will be summoned to the commission's Knightsbridge offices next week, an ITC spokesman said.

Gay writes

NEWSPAPER editors must not "ride roughshod over the sensitivities" of homosexuals with articles that encourage persecution, the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) has said in upholding a complaint against the *Daily Star* for a front-page story headlined "Poofters on Parade". The article, about a Commons select committee recommendation to decriminalise gay activity in the armed forces, said MPs wanted "poofts in uniform to march

out of the closet and parade their perversions without fear of punishment". Brian Hitchen, the *Star's* editor and a member of the PCC, wrote in a column headlined "Shove your queer ideas in the closet" that homosexuals had managed to win over the committee "with a wink and a wiggle". Tim Barnett, the executive director of Stonewall, the equal rights group that made the complaint, welcomed the PCC's landmark decision and called on the press to report homosexual issues accurately and without prejudice.

International Rescue act

BBC2 ratings are good! The repeats of *Thunderbirds*, the 1960s space-age puppet series, have persuaded more than six million viewers to tune into the channel at 6pm on Fridays. The first show, on September 20, attracted an audience of 6.82 million, making *Thunderbirds* the highest-rated show on BBC2.

Outside help

IN A £250,000 effort to get non-BBC output on to the five networks' airwaves, Broadcasting House is opening its doors to independent radio producers. David Hatch, the managing director of BBC network radio, says each controller has been given £50,000 to find independent talent. The problem is that an independent radio production sector "does not as yet exist", Mr Hatch says, but he adds that the BBC task force looking into the corporation's relationship with the independent sector will recommend that independent television companies develop radio



David Hatch: talent search arms. Independent producers have been invited to a meeting on October 29 to talk about how production will be handled by the BBC, from commissioning to payment.

M.W.



Words in John Major's ear: but Peter Gummer is no Tim Bell reborn

Is this the man to sell the Tories?

John Major's dislike of image-making gimmickry could, Melinda Wittstock reports, be making him deaf to advice

Once again a party conference has plunged into self examination and recriminations about party image and public relations. The Labour party has succeeded in turning the health service into the only issue of the conference, and accusations are flying about Tory lack of public relations skills.

But how important are the image makers? Anthony King, a professor of government at the University of Essex who specialises in election campaigns, says: "Whenever any government is in trouble, everyone starts to blame the image makers. Resolutions are put down at party conferences saying the policies are right, but the message is not being put across properly. In my best judgment, this is 99 per cent wrong. It's the Cleopatra syndrome: if you don't like the news, blame the messenger."

David Butler, a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford who has the written authoritative books about 12 general elections, accuses the PR machine a bit more weight: "It is much easier to sell good products than bad products, but I think image-making is at least 20 per cent of the equation."

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, has been going out of his way to persuade voters that the prime minister has no need of the advice of slick advertising and PR strategists or the ministrations of voice coaches and fashion designers. Mr Major, he insisted on the eve of the Blackpool conference, will "do it, thank heavens, without the image merchants".

But insiders tell a slightly different story. The image-makers are still there, but the faces, and perhaps the advice, have changed. Out went Mrs Thatcher's PR guru Sir Tim Bell and Sir Gordon Reese, and in came Peter Gummer, the founder of Shandwick, the world's largest PR business, brother of John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and friend of Mr Patten.

"We had a long chat the other day and he is obviously close to the action," says Brendan Bruce, the party's former director of communications. While current party officials play down Peter Gummer's role, others close to him confirm he has the ear of the prime minister and the party chairman.

Despite Peter Gummer's appointment last January to the NHS policy board to advise the health secretary, William Waldegrave, on communications strategy, the Tories have apparently failed to convince the electorate that the health service is safe in their hands. Dave Hill, Labour's director of communications, blames the confused sig-

nals emanating from Conservative Central Office and Downing Street on the Tories' apparent unwillingness to trust their PR team.

Former members of Mrs Thatcher's coterie are beginning to show their frustration at the handling of the Tories' campaign strategy. The view is that the media are not being handled well and that far too often the party appears defensive and secretive. Politicians, they say, should never fight on the other man's ground. Even Peter Gummer is understood to have doubts about the Tories' strategy. Smith Square is now strengthening its team by bringing in Shandwick's Melvyn Bartholomew until the general election to restructure the press and communications unit.

But private denials last week from the communications advisors at both Downing Street and Smith Square of any involvement in John Wakeham's leak appears to back up the view that their advice is not being heard.

"Major will have to make a serious error before he will come to understand how important image-making is. Until then it won't be obvious to him how his advisers can help," Mr Bruce says.

Peter [Gummer] is one of the few people who is qualified to give advice. He understands the demands of politics, and has exactly the right personality - he is very charming and not overly aggressive. But no, he's not the Tim Bell of the 1990s. Mrs T was very close to Tim, but I don't think Major is as close as that with anybody."

When newshounds bite their masters

Newspaper ombudsmen could soon face a surprising new aspect of their duties

THE ombudsmen appointed by Fleet Street editors last year in their attempt to avert statutory curbs on press freedom may have smiled cynically this week at the news that a journalist had sued his own newspaper - and, moreover, that he won libel damages of £20,000.

The award, made on Monday to Paul Leighton, a BBC Radio 2 announcer, arose after the *Derby Herald and Post* printed an apology about an item in a political column written by Leighton, a former president of the Institute of Journalists, without his consent. Leighton claimed he had not been consulted about the apology and said that it impugned his integrity. The

article in question was later accepted as having been true and fair.

Few ombudsmen would admit the fact publicly but journalists, so good at dishing out criticism, are notoriously reluctant to hold up their hands and confess when they have made an error themselves. That is one of the facts of Fleet Street life which can embarrass the ombudsmen when they are conducting enquiries into readers' complaints.

Ombudsmen have found less work than their Commons critics would have expected. Hugh Stephenson, director of journalism at City University in London and *The Guardian's* ombudsman, had only 70 complaints in 19 months, mostly, he says, complaints from feminists about naked women on the health page.

He has found against *The Guardian* on only three or four occasions and has discovered that most complainants

are satisfied with an explanatory letter from the editor.

Yet it is the toughest reporters who become thin-skinned when they think they are being criticised, Stephenson says. "The moment you criticise them they scream blue murder. They hate to admit they have done anything wrong."

After the stern government warning to Fleet Street, Editors are publishing more apologies these days, and that has lightened the ombudsmen's workload. Charles

Wintour, ombudsman of *The Sunday Times*, gets only about one letter a fortnight. "Some need advice, others are genuine complaints, and some just want you to write their thesis for them," he says. Yet the genuine complaint often makes full-time work for a fortnight.

One reason why journalists are reluctant to admit error - and one obvious reason why ombudsmen were appointed - is the fear that their careers will be threatened if they have

been sloppy or inaccurate. Stephenson, however, does not believe that any stigma attaches to a newspaper for admitting when it has been mistaken. Even editors make mistakes, readers respect papers prepared to admit they are wrong, and, as Stephenson says, apologies make newspapers seem more responsible.

The *Financial Times* refused to appoint an ombudsman and Richard Lambert, its editor, makes no apology. "I read all the letters and deal with complaints personally. I know all my journalists and would involve them in any corrections."

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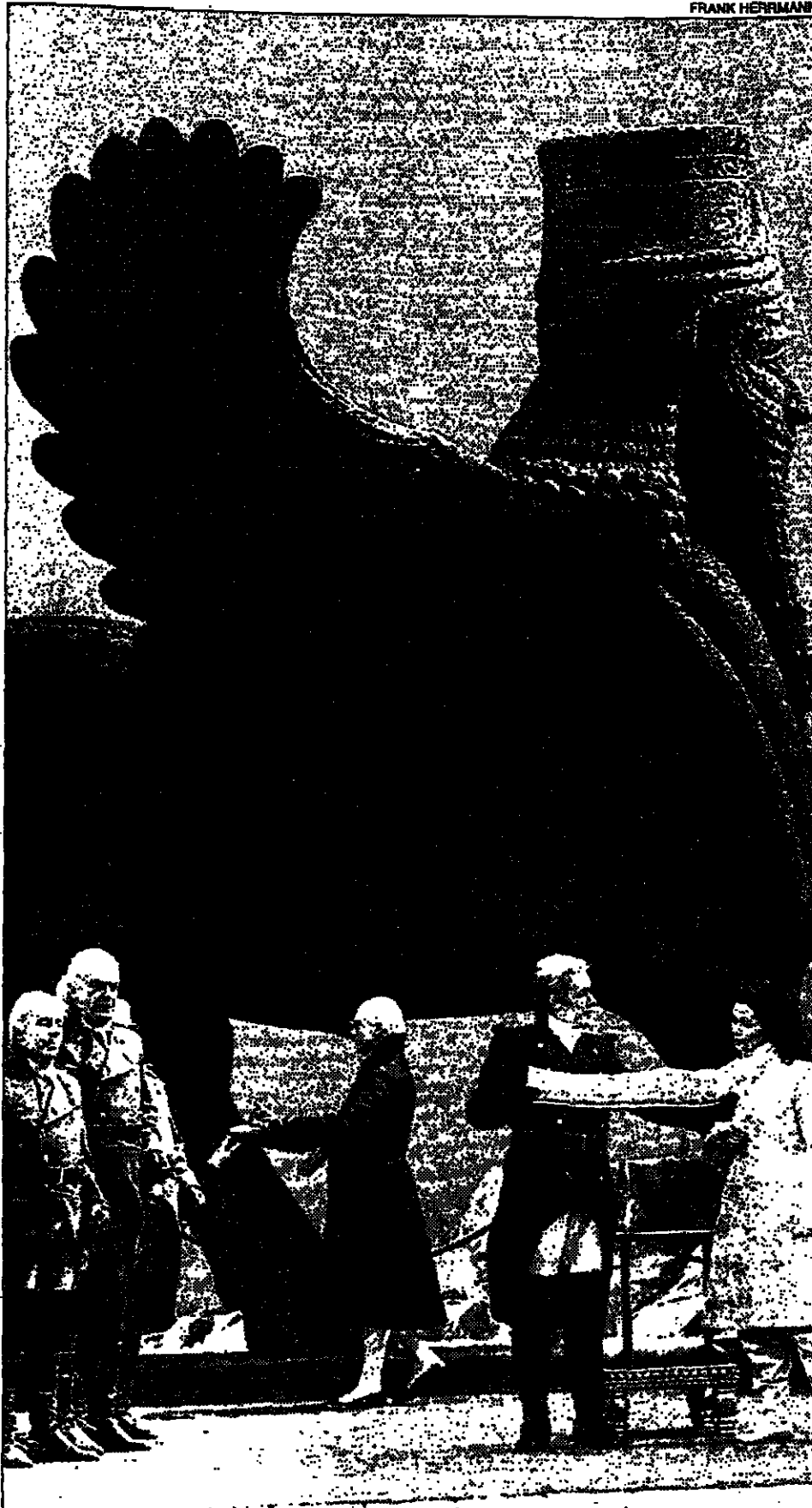
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Travelling abroad for a song and a sale

In a new era of international artistic exchange, corporate and national sponsorship take lead roles, argues Richard Morrison



English National Opera's production of *Xerxes*: part of Britain's three-pronged diplomatic, cultural and commercial initiative in Kiev, at the "British Days" festival

For any musician, actor or dancer, the three little words "on the road" used to be an evocative phrase. Touring meant hotel baths with bugs but no plugs, and late-night carousing that merged (via four aspirins) gruesomely into dawn coach departures. It meant the lorry carrying scenery breaking down three hours short of that night's theatre, or a taxi door slamming on the fingers of the only harpist in Kuala Lumpur. It meant the show going on, despite stomach disorders and rampant internal jealousies of both a sexual and professional nature. Such is the stuff of a thousand thespian memoirs: a mixture of *Porgy and Bess*, a Club 18-30 holiday and the evacuation of Dunkirk.

The shoe-string tour lives on, of course. The most obscure Russian dance companies are hopping around seedy hotels in Western Europe, with hopes pinned on a post-dated promoter's cheque and a prayer. But, by and large, big business has stepped in. Cultural touring is no longer a straightforward matter of taking *Hamlet* to the hamlets. Increasingly, it has become an adjunct of corporate or even national public relations campaigns. Call it "enlightened sponsorship" or "cultural imperialism": either way, no big ensemble these days can tour without it.

To bring a North American orchestra on even a short European tour, or vice versa, is to write off at least £1 million. A corporation picks up the tab when it can see a direct PR benefit, though that may not be immediately apparent to the outsider. British Gas brought the Toronto Symphony to Europe this year, for instance, because it had just acquired an interest in a Canadian gas company, and wanted to demonstrate its good citizenship to the Toronto business community. Similarly, when Parker Pens was "repositioning" itself in the American market, the com-

pany found it convenient to put £170,000 towards the costs of the Philharmonia's American tour.

Such deals have made the Atlantic like a ping-pong table, with American and European orchestras bouncing back and forth. And such huge corporate spending has undoubtedly made life more comfortable for touring performers. These days, an American orchestra on tour is a logistical exercise of awesome opulence and precision. How many juggernauts (runs the British musicians' joke) does it take to tour an American orchestra? The answer is two: one for the instruments, the other to carry the crates of designer water.

But even the most lavish tour sponsorship by a single corporation pales besides artistic ventures backed by the corporate muscle of an entire country. The Japan Festival, which is currently flooding Britain with everything from the dainty delights of sumo wrestling to the inscrutable mystery of Noh theatre, is a classic case. To deride the whole jamboree as a yeh-happy exercise designed to sell more Nissans and Sonys is both cynical and simplistic. This festival has a much broader aim: breaking down a generalised Western suspicion of all things Japanese, a suspicion based partly on ignorance of an alien culture. Quite how such bizarre conceptions as a Kabuki *Jesus Christ Superstar* can help the Japanese cause is unclear, but the intention is plain.

Londoners, especially, may be forgiven for thinking themselves the target of a unique arts bombardment from a single source. In fact at least one other country can rival Japan with the intensity of its overseas cultural blitzes — and that is Britain. Last week the British Council published its

annual report on how it spends its £362 million budget. And as Sir David Orr, its chairman, states in his introduction: "Cultural relations through the arts remain at the heart of our efforts to make friends for Britain."

What does "make friends for Britain" mean in this context? The report gives details of achievements that are a curious mixture of the artistic — "triumphant world tour by Royal National Theatre" — and the overly

biggest coups during 1990: two cultural and diplomatic "blitzes", each of which could have been taken as a model by the Japan Festival. The "British Days" in Kiev was a classic three-pronged assault on the Soviets: diplomatic, cultural and commercial. On the first prong was the Princess Royal, Margaret Thatcher and Lord Whitelaw. On the second was English National Opera with its productions of *Xerxes* and *Turn of the Screw*, the English Shakespeare Company and London Contemporary Dance Theatre. And leading the commercial charge were these ensembles' sponsors, notably Rank Xerox, Marks and Spencer and the Midland Bank.

But the Kiev parade was a mere warm-up for what came next: the UK90 festival in Japan, which presented 120 events in four months. "Arguably the largest and most concentrated British arts programme ever presented overseas," says the Council. This time the artistic lineup included the National Theatre, Scottish Ballet and a V & A exhibition; and the indefatigable Princess Royal was persuaded to whizz round 15 events in three days.

But it was the financing of this festival that was remarkable: £200,000 each from the British Council and British Embassy, and an astonishing £7 million from Japanese sponsors. The British Council pulled off an extraordinary feat: dumping a mountain of British cultural propaganda in Japan, and persuading the Japanese to pay for it themselves.

What, in purely artistic terms, is the worth of such intensive infiltrations of one nation's performers into another's leisure time? By allowing first-hand experiences of unfamiliar traditions, such events do counteract the depressingly homogenising ef-

Those planning the next great blitz should ponder the point at which cultural saturation becomes counter-productive

commercial — "British consortium led by Council wins Kuwait contracts worth £47 million". It is hard to read the report and not feel that, for the British Council, a cultural initiative — whether it is a tour by British performers or the opening of an English language school in Bucharest — is counted as a "triumph" if and when it opens up tangible commercial routes. Not surprisingly, given this bullish attitude, commercial sponsorship for the Council's activities has shot up eleven-fold, from £330,000 to £3.8 million, in seven years. As Orr remarks: "We have become a cultural organisation operating in a highly political and commercial environment."

That approach was exemplified by the British Council's

fect of mass culture. But the global village has been with us for many decades already; and it is pointless to pretend that the Japan Festival, UK90 in Japan, or any other major overseas tour, offers its audiences much that they will not already have experienced on recordings or television.

Dozens of foreign orchestras come to London each year: even music critics would find it hard, if blindfolded, to tell the Japanese from the Americans. So extensive were Frank Dunlop's "world theatre" excursions at his Edinburgh Festivals that there can hardly be a theatrical tradition — from Polynesian shadow-dancing to Peruvian skittle-juggling — that does not produce a feeling of *déjà vu* in seasoned British theatregoers. The first visit of the Bolshoi Ballet to Britain in 1956 caused a sensation: the umpteenth visit produced yawns. And so on. Those planning the next great blitz — in Europe, Japan or America — should ponder the point at which cultural saturation becomes counter-productive. Just occasionally, familiarity does breed contempt.

Brook wins US prize

PETER Brook has become the first recipient of the Wexner Prize, an American award which will be presented annually to an artist whose "innovative work has made a permanent impact on the arts". The internationally acclaimed British director first made his name with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the Sixties, where his reinterpretations of *King Lear* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* became contemporary classics. For the past 20 years, Brook has been based in Paris, where he founded the International Centre of Theatre Creations. The Wexner Prize, presen-

ted by the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University, carries an award of \$50,000 (£29,000), which Brook will accept in Columbus, Ohio, next March.

Focus on Woolf

HAVING more or less unbanned E.M. Forster's oeuvre in celluloid (only *The Longest Day* remains unfilmed, and a production of that is imminent), film-makers are now rifling the pages of his contemporary, Virginia Woolf. Her friskiest novel, *Orlando*, is due for adaptation by director Sally Potter, best-known for her BFI production *The Gold Diggers*. Shooting should begin at Germany's DEFA studios early next year, with

locations in the Soviet Union; Tilda Swinton, Maggie Smith and Juliette Binoche are scheduled to star.

Last chance . . .

ALTHOUGH they jumped ship in the Eighties and went to live in New York, the Psychedelic Furs remain one of British rock's most durable and respected cult groups. With their droning guitar textures propping up vocalist Richard Butler's decadent rasp, they evoke a mood of brooding melancholia, a style which has influenced a generation of fashionable indie bands such as Blur and Curve. They finish a series of British shows to promote their recent *World Outside* album tonight at the Town & Country, London NW5 (071-284 0303).

DANCE

After a decade, a new bird arises

Debra Craine reports on the changing direction of Phoenix Dance Company

Not many companies can have changed their spots as radically as Phoenix just has. Formed in 1981 as a small-scale, all-black, all-male dance troupe, the company is marking its tenth anniversary as neither all-male, all-black, nor even small-scale. And as it celebrates its first decade with a one-week season at Sadler's Wells, the Leeds-based troupe is also welcoming a new artistic director who could not be further removed from the company's roots.

Margaret Morris is white and female, a British dancer, choreographer and teacher who has spent the bulk of her career in the United States. Her appointment as director of a company which grew out of the local environment of an inner-city Leeds school confirms Phoenix's intention of continuing on the path of artistic expansion begun by Neville Campbell, who recently resigned as director.

When Campbell took over in 1987, Phoenix was a troupe of six male dancers — all black — who had built up a remarkable reputation as committed performers who had survived against the odds. Their style was understandably streetwise and macho, their in-house choreography a mixture of reggae and blues soundtracks.

But Campbell saw limitations in the all-male lineup and the choreographic insularity. In an effort to broaden Phoenix's artistic horizons, he brought in female dancers and outside choreographers who dealt with non-black issues in their work. His moves freed Phoenix from the narrow scope of its minority origins, turning it into a British



Pamela Johnson in Neville Campbell's *Solo*: one of his final works as Phoenix's artistic director

contemporary dance company that owes its allegiance to no single aesthetic. Along the way, Phoenix graduated to larger theatres and a more broadly based audience.

Today the company comprises ten dancers: five men, five women; nine black, one white. It has a widely varied repertoire that features the work of such well-known dance-makers as Michael Clark, Tom Jobe and Philip Taylor, alongside company members such as Pamela Johnson. The challenge for its new artistic director is to continue developing Phoenix, without severing its roots or alienating the public funding bodies who have supported it.

"I have no intention of changing the company's image. I see it as essentially a black dance company," says Morris, who takes up her new position in January. "Those are its roots coming out of a certain culture of Leeds, which has made it what it is. Now it's growing into middle-scale work and touring inter-

nationally. As with all art forms, as you grow you need to open out your receptiveness to other cultures and to other experiences."

In specific terms that means "possibly bringing in some American choreographers, possibly black, to give another viewpoint". How does she define the Phoenix repertoire? "It's the repertoire of a dynamic, energetic company. Some of the issues that are approached may have been essentially black issues and hopefully that will continue as other issues, not essentially black ones, come into the work. It is important to stay with the roots and develop from there."

But changing one's spots usually comes at a price, and in the case of Phoenix the price may already have been one visionary artistic director: Campbell says he resigned three months ago because the job was "traumatic".

According to Campbell, the company's recent expansion from small-scale to middle-scale found the dancers unprepared for the change. "I didn't feel the dancers were ready for it," he says. "I don't think they coped very well. I was unhappy in the job because of the unwillingness of the dancers to go further and I couldn't work with dancers who wanted to dictate policy."

"Margaret Morris is inheriting a very successful company. I just hope she gets the blessing of the dancers."

Phoenix Dance Company is at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), until Saturday.

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Bringing Europe down to earth

British pragmatism will be needed for the hard bargaining on the path to Maastricht, explains Peter Riddell

If Douglas Hurd had his way, there would be a gradual, pragmatic evolution of the European Community towards closer union. Instead of a firm blueprint of institutional change, there would be increased cooperation between member governments, leading to joint action. It is all very Tory, very British, Castle-reign and Canning would have understood his skilful conference speech yesterday. Unfortunately, the world is not Tory.

Many of the difficulties in the European debate arise from different ways of thinking. British pragmatism versus continental idealism. Or as one senior minister commented in a world-weary reference to recent French manoeuvres, "the politics of gesture, the diplomacy of theatre".

Britain is concentrating on clarifying grandiose sounding statements in various drafts of the political union treaty. An alternative perspective from Paris or Bonn is that what matters are the broad aims of European union, and that the British are again being obstructionist by quibbling about details.

The path to an agreement in Maastricht in December about the future of Europe looks increasingly uncertain. The celebrations two weeks ago over the withdrawal of the Dutch draft were premature. Indeed, to the extent that the Bonn government already feels it has made large concessions to help Britain, negotiations may now be more difficult.

There is still a long way to go. The foreign ministers had a lengthy discussion about foreign policy last weekend. They have yet to tackle the questions about internal security or the powers of the European parliament. There is the danger that too much will be left to be resolved at the last minute, even by the heads of government themselves — which is seldom a recipe for clarity. Mr Hurd warned yesterday that there are "still too many proposals on the table which we cannot and shall not accept".

On foreign policy, for example, all agree that questions of principle — such as recognition of countries — should only be decided by unanimous agreement, while matters of implementation should be determined by a majority of ministers. But what is principle and what implementation? Another key area of dispute is defence. France believes that the Americans will leave Europe before very long, and that the aim should therefore be to build up a separate European defence community. By contrast, Britain wants any common European defence identity to be wedded to the Atlantic alliance and Nato, with a continuing commitment of forces in Europe. One result of this was last week's Anglo-Italian initiative to build up the Western European Union to control a European rapid reaction force outside the Nato area. In response, the French and

RIDDELL ON WEDNESDAY

German foreign ministers have invited like-minded colleagues to Paris on Friday to discuss absorbing the WEU's defence role into the community. Mr Hurd will not be attending. An aim of the Anglo-Italian initiative was to show that countries beside Britain believe the community cannot be run by a German-French axis alone.

Both Mr Hurd and John Major know there are limits as to how far they can compromise — and not only on foreign policy. Many Westminster MPs oppose any substantial transfer of power to Strasbourg. However, clarity of debate is not helped by the use of terms like "co-decision" since what is being proposed is not a power to impose or to amend, but power solely to reject. There is also a sizeable group in the cabinet opposed to any extension of majority voting, which might risk a return to corporatism.

Why, the argument goes, should the government jeopardise the gains of the past decade in industrial relations and employment law? The strength of feeling in the Conservative party against anything smacking of a federal course was underlined by several speakers in yesterday's debate.

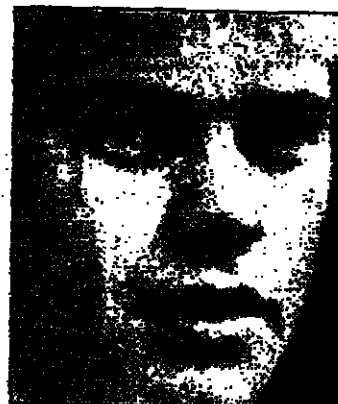
Naturally this allows a good deal of leeway in practice. One strongly anti-integrationist Tory MP yesterday estimated that only about 20 members would vote against any Maastricht deal. But there is always the possibility of a Thatcher explosion, even if we are promised only a silent movie during her appearance today. But, of course, Mr Major will never agree to a deal unless he thinks it will be acceptable to Tory MPs.

However, much of this debate about institutions looks artificial when judged against what is happening in the real world. A cooperative approach agreed by foreign ministers may not have achieved much in Yugoslavia given the attitudes on the ground, but at least it has prevented EC countries going their own way, so far, in recognising Croatia. It is hard to believe a single foreign policy could have achieved any more, and the community may soon have to recognise its limitations and involve the United Nations Security Council in discussing sanctions, as Mr Hurd said yesterday. Similarly, the European Commission has had to recognise that it cannot alone handle aid for the Soviet Union; the Group of Seven has to take a leading role, to include America and Japan.

None of this justifies the extremes of either a separate national policy, or decisions based on the fine print of European treaty negotiations. We are back to British pragmatism, not the French "politics of gesture."

Universities used to be good sports. Matthew d'Ancona asks why a cricketer rejected Oxford

Stumped for choice



Philip Weston: torn between the glittering prizes

Given the choice between two holy grails, which should a young man grasp? The Times yesterday reported that Philip Weston, aged 18, has turned down the chance to read history at Keble College, Oxford, choosing instead to take up his appointment as captain of the England Under-19 cricket side in Pakistan this winter. What ever the opposite of a Hobson's Choice may be, young Weston was blessed with it: but did he do the right thing?

It is easy to oversell the merits of an Oxford career. Life amid the spires and ivy-clad quads is not to everyone's taste. Philip Larkin spent his undergraduate years moping around Oxford and the rest of his life complaining about them, while Edward Gibbon declared his 14 months at Magdalen to be "the most idle and unprofitable of my whole life".

But Gibbon was a virtuous scholar rather than an aspiring athlete. Traditionally, blue-chip sportsmen have been more than welcome at the ancient universities. At least three hundred test and county cricketers can claim Oxbridge pedigree, and many of them prospered academically while they were up.

The point, however, is that it

used not to matter much whether they worked hard or not. In days gone by, a Blue was as coveted as a First, and usually came with a gentleman's Third attached. It guaranteed membership of such exclusive and bibulous clubs as Vincent's (Oxford) and the Hawks (Cambridge), and thereafter a safe ticket to a working life in the City. So for the serious sportsman, academic life was merely a pleasant backdrop to the business of scoring runs and taking wickets.

The universities conspired merrily in this system. Scholarly sinecures were discreetly carved out for star sportsmen to ease their passage through three years hard work at the crease or on the river. Colleges hungry for distinction established sporting scholarships and admitted capable athletes on the nod. Some degree courses — most infamously land management — became safe havens for the sportsman of indeterminate IQ looking for a quiet life.

That Philip Weston should now have to choose between sport and university shows that this old order of accommodating attitudes

Times have certainly changed. In the 1950s and 1960s, Keble was a furious recruiter of sporting talent, thanks to its bursar, Vere Davidge, for many years the senior treasurer of Oxford University Boat Club. Exploiting his connections at Eton and elsewhere, Davidge, father of the great oarsman Christopher, found places at Keble for a generation of blades, so lifting the college from obscurity to sporting greatness.

The change of heart was inevitable, according to Oxford's vice-chancellor, Sir Richard Southwood. As an essential feature of the balanced undergraduate diet, sport should be "like wine with a good meal". But the university, he says, can no longer bend the rules to give outstanding athletes an undergraduate berth. Thanks to the fiercely competitive spirit between colleges, crystallised in the annual Norrington table (which ranks them according to degree results), colleges simply cannot afford to admit students who are academically weak, in case their ratings drop. The sporting *jeunesse dorée* can no

longer expect special treatment. Perhaps Philip Weston should have bitten his lower lip and headed for Oxford anyway. He might have lost the Under-19 captaincy, but he would have won several Blues (not to mention the half-Blues in minority sports, which serious athletes pick up like confetti), and enjoyed a richer variety of experience than even the most bohemian cricket pavilion can offer. He would have enjoyed the distinction of being an Oxonian cricketer. Unlike Ian Botham, he could have looked forward to a life mercifully free of pants.

Cricketer or education? It seems a harsh choice for a brilliant 18-year-old to have to make. Most people will probably say that of the two gift horses before him, he has looked the wrong one in the mouth, and will rue his decision when he is old and grey and umpiring.

But I wonder whether this particular 18-year-old is shrewder than his critics think. This week, the man who knows more about Don Bradman's batting averages than he does about his own educational qualifications ascends the rostrum at Blackpool as prime minister. Perhaps Philip Weston knows the path to glory when he sees it.

Peace dies in the streets

R.W. Johnson on the violence making Mandela a politician not a statesman

The fresh violence in the East Rand township of Thokoza, followed by Nelson Mandela's extraordinary personal attack on President de Klerk, is another illustration of how difficult the politics of peace and negotiation have become in South Africa.

The violence itself has developed a ritual pattern: the assassination of Inkatha Freedom Party or African National Congress officials (in this case the ANC civic leader Sam Ntuli) is followed by a larger massacre of one side's supporters by unknown hitmen, which in turn triggers further waves of retaliatory violence. Last month's riots were set off by the massacre of 23 Inkatha supporters and saw more than 120 die in the end. On this occasion 18 ANC supporters have been similarly gunned down. The first question must be how far the retaliatory reaction can be contained this time.

The second question — who was responsible for the massacre — is likely to remain unanswered. Here too the pattern is familiar: unknown hitmen, operating from a single car, create utter carnage thanks to the killing power of automatic weapons, and then escape in the confusion, leaving all sides accusing one another.

In particular the ANC accuses a sinister "third force" of deliberately attempting to destabilise the townships and the whole the process of constitutional negotiation. The chances that this is true are pretty high, but little that resembles proof or even evidence can be assembled. The ANC also blames police inaction and thus "the apartheid regime".

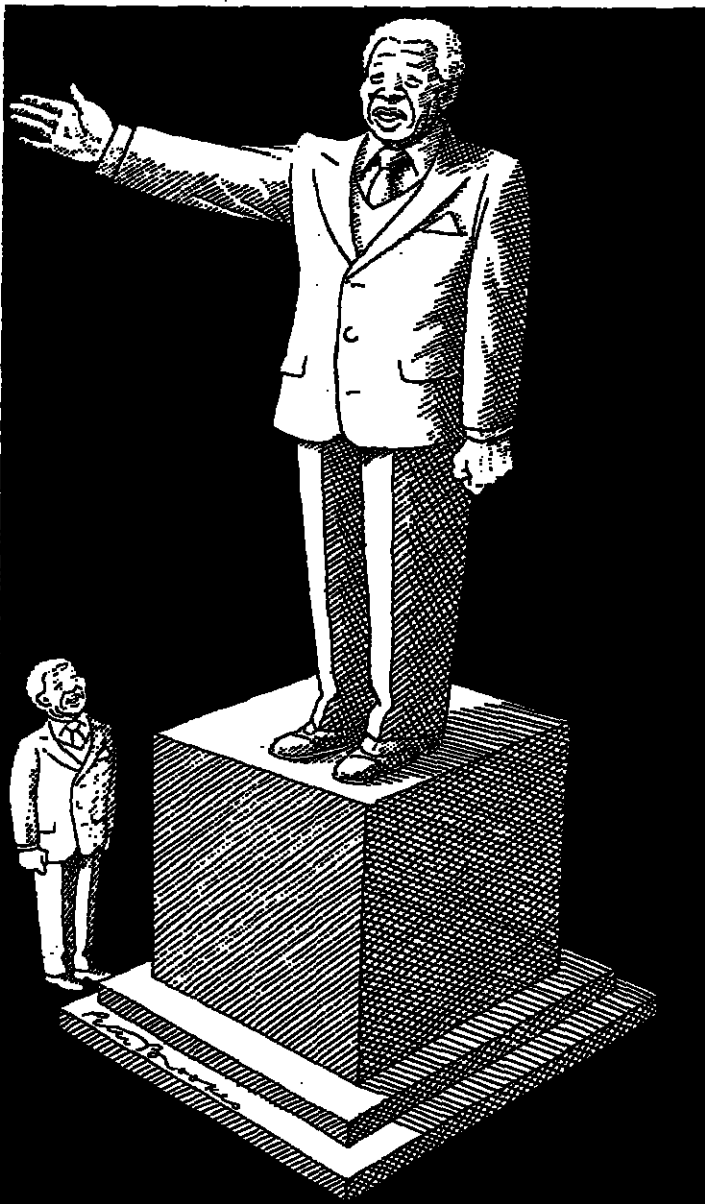
To a degree this is fair enough: legitimate questions exist as to how yesterday's hitmen could operate so boldly and get away so cleanly despite a large police presence, including a helicopter, at the scene of the massacre. But

while the police record in bringing such hitmen to book is poor, it is not nil: members of extreme right-wing white groups have been brought to justice for an earlier bus massacre in Natal, and a number of arrests have been made in connection with the massacre of the 23 Inkatha supporters last month.

One must, too, always allow for the fact that the ANC is hostile to the (perfectly correct) notion that there is a significant ethnic threat running through much of the violence. The ANC prefers to offer explanations framed in terms of blacks versus the white apartheid regime. This is compounded by the need of black politicians to reflect the anger felt within their wounded community and to use whatever advantage comes to hand in the negotiation process.

Nelson Mandela's outburst, in which he has attempted to fasten personal blame for the latest massacre onto President De Klerk, must be read in this context. The president, thundered Mr Mandela, not only had "a callous disregard" for the lives of blacks, but had "let loose his hounds against the people... It is untrue that this is black-on-black violence." The kernel of truth in this is that most whites, faced with yet more township violence, do shake their shoulders at what they take to be the incorrigibly violent ways of their black compatriots, and so regard such deaths less seriously than if whites were involved.

But President De Klerk has been careful never to betray such attitudes himself, and the idea that he has personally conspired to produce this latest massacre is, of course, fantastic. He would like nothing better than the speedy arrest and conviction of these latest killers and will surely have some angry and searching questions of his own about the police role on this occasion.



It has to be said that in the 20 months since Mr Mandela walked free from jail, his image as a heroic man of principle has been inevitably muddled by the (extremely rough) hurly-burly of South African political life. Not only is he prone to announce policy swerves without much consultation within his own movement, he also tends to play

to whatever gallery he is addressing. Given that he was speaking yesterday to an angry township crowd, Mr Mandela was bound to indulge in such inflammatory rhetoric.

His outburst reveals, too, just how fragile is the recently signed peace accord. In his outrage at the massacre, Mr Mandela has overriden all the procedures and

mechanisms established under that accord to deal with precisely such situations. Now that their leader has given his definitive interpretation of the tragedy, how can the ANC representatives charged to assist in the investigation of this affair sit down with representatives of Inkatha and the government?

Similar considerations apply to the process of constitutional negotiation itself. It will be hard enough for the ANC to sit through such talks amid rumours of radical dissent at the inevitable compromises involved, but it will be quite impossible for it to do so if its own supporters are simultaneously being mown down in township massacres.

Holding the negotiation process together always rested in no small part on the relationship of trust and mutual respect between Nelson Mandela and President De Klerk. The president, Mr Mandela repeatedly assured his followers, was "a man of integrity", a man one could negotiate with. If he now depicts him as an accomplice to murder, it is difficult to see how their relationship can survive. Mr Mandela will have to eat his words if he is to sit down again with the president.

All of which must leave Mr De Klerk tearing his hair. The continuing violence drives white voters to the right and damages the economic climate as well as endangering his negotiation deadlines. Since there must be an election by 1994, a new constitution must be approved by 1993, and therefore negotiated in 1992.

If explosions of township violence continue, the temptation will grow for Mr De Klerk to act unilaterally both to restore order and to force through, perhaps by referendum, either a new constitution or, more likely, a prolongation of the government's term. Recourse to either of these alternatives would mean that he had stumbled badly on his path to a "new South Africa".

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Call me Ishmael. But only for the time being. Only for those few short days which remain to me as a humble scrivener. After that, you will have to call me Ahab. That is what I shall change my name to, when I have taken over the ship. I may even have my leg replaced, if I can lay my hands on a suitable length of sperm whale's jawbone. That is the kind of thing you do, when you're crazy with ambition.

A phrase which Times readers may well recall, especially if they are among those cast adrift and forced to heave-to off the Dolls drums until the present climate changes, with nothing to do but trawl their desperate nets through this paper's weekly Appointments section. For it was here that my own eye was caught by the banner "CRAZY WITH AMBITION". Fluttering atop a huge display advertisement. Or, rather, that one eye was caught; what caught the other, simultaneously, was the word Crickwood. Because that is exactly the kind of word which catches the eye if you are neither employed nor unemployed but doomed to trudge that limbo between the two which is the freelance lot: that barren beach combed, day in, day out, by ragged hacks with eyes downcast for the glitter of any usable jargon.

"We are looking," cried the ad, "for an ambitious extrovert personality to run our new flagship at Crickwood." And even as the eye was caught, the heart

leapt. Might there not be more in this than a mere 800 words? Who has not dreamed of running a flagship, striding the poop in tricorne and epaulettes, exhorting a cowering crew to belay this and that, with the fleet strung out behind and, as I understand it, buxom stowaways lolling in the scuppers, eager to barter for their berth?

But the snag has always been the sea. It is cold, wet, unstable and notably short on decent restaurants. Indeed, that there is none of it near Crickwood has always been, for me, one of the village's prime boons. So how could it be that a flagship now lay at anchor among us, seeking a master? No sooner had my timbers ceased shivering than I peered more carefully at the advertisement: it was signed by a Mr David Jury, whose address was given as PO Box 197, Bristol, Aha! It was this salty provenance, surely, which had moved him to the metaphor within which his appeal was couched. Ship-shape was the fashion in which he wanted things run; even if what he wanted run was, as it transpired, not a ship at all, but a shore-based establishment. For when I read on, I found that it was called Food Giant, that there was 55,000 square feet of it, that it was a multi-million-pound food retailing revolution, and that the captain he sought would have to be "an ambitious extrovert personality, able to create a zany atmosphere; a dynamo who enjoys high-profile

media and customer contact." Me to a T. The dream I had always dreamed of, but which I had never dreamed of realising. An Ahab do nos jours, with a whalebone peg and a livid scar and a fobhorn threat, yet at the same time on the unfurling quiver for a bit of giggle, a rickshaw shanty, a rollicking knees-up, all right knees-up, at the captain's table, the sort of sailor all the nice girls love, and one, what's more, with a media bent, ever ready to dance a monopod hornpipe on Wogan or reveal his jolly rogering to The Sun, should this help to shift 55,000 sq ft of revolutionary groceries.

So I rang up, and I found out where the scow was lying, and I went down to inspect it at its moorings beside Crickwood Lane, and a fine man-of-merchandise it was, reassuringly fashioned from unrolling brick yet very like a ship withal, a sharp end, a fat stern, towering smokestacks, and the vast hold of a supertanker, from which steel companionways led up to a broad gallery running the length of the vessel along which an ambitious extrovert could stomp all day, with a megaphone and a shouldered parrot, being as zany as he liked.

My application is already in the post. By the time you read this, I shall have cracked the trick of facetious semaphore. I may even be able to do a few more jokes. Call it customer contact. It is only what they are entitled to expect from a storefaring man with one leg.

Fundraising with fizz

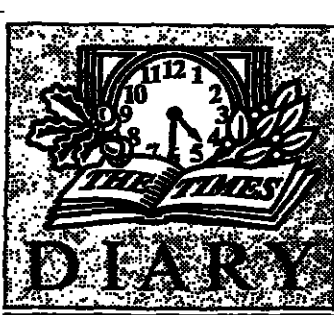
ANYTHING Labour can do, the Tories like to think they can do better — particularly when it comes to glitzy fundraising. After Neil Kinnock's champagne socialists raised £70,000 from a ball at the Park Lane Hotel in Mayfair in June, the Tories are about to hold a million-pound banquet at Blenheim Palace.

Secrecy has surrounded the preparations for the £200-a-head lunch next month, where John Major, Douglas Hurd and other cabinet members will be guests of honour. Each guest is being personally vetted by Downing Street. With Tory party funds in a parlous state, Major will use the stately surroundings of the palace to appeal for millions of pounds for the party's general election campaign coffers.

That energetic fundraiser Jeffrey Archer will be much in evidence, but the list of businessmen who will be there remains under wraps. All, however, are said to be capable of writing six-figure cheques without batting an eyelid, and there is inevitably speculation that John Laisis, the Greek tycoon who gave the party £2 million, its largest donation, will attend.

Sotheby's will stage an auction of 15 items of antique jewellery and silver, all of which have been donated, which is expected to double the £150,000 income from ticket sales. The guests and their chequebooks are confidently expected to take the total over the million mark before the last glass of port is passed.

With private research this week suggesting that 51 of Britain's top 60 companies do not intend to make any political donations in election year, the event could not



be more timely. And its date may have contributed to the decision not to hold an election this year. Planned for November 3 the event would have had to have been cancelled if Major had chosen a November poll.

Meanwhile at Blackpool, Lord King of Warrnaby is to host a British Airways champagne reception at the Imperial Hotel tonight. Not a few Tory MPs have declined the invitation, suggesting that he save the money and put it towards restoring the £40,000 party donation withdrawn earlier this year.

One spy, twice shy

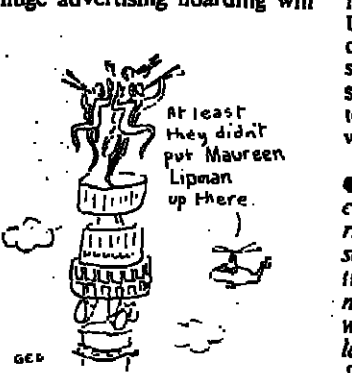
THE government seems almost certain not to repeat its legal action against Peter Wright over the sequel to *Spycatcher*. The news will come as a disappointment to the former spy turned author. In his new book, *The Spycatcher's Encyclopaedia of Espionage*, to be published later this month in Australia, Wright cheekily pays effusive tribute to Mrs Thatcher for contributing so heavily to the success of his first book.

In truth, the new work has a strong feel of "after the lord mayor's show" about it. "There is no new material in the book that is a threat to national security," a Downing Street spokesman said dismissively last night. "The gov-

ernment does not believe it is necessary to take legal proceedings to stop publication. This is a matter for the publishers to decide." Heinemann have yet to decide whether to publish in Britain.

Circumspice

HEAVEN KNOWS what Christopher Wren would think. London's skyline is about to be still further defaced by the erection of three neon-lit prancing pipers atop the Telecom tower. The pipers will be visible for miles around. Their arrival follows Michael Heseltine's recent overruling of Camden council's initial refusal of planning permission. Many fear that turning such a landmark into a huge advertising hoarding will



set a precedent. "We were concerned about the visual impact of the sign," says a spokesman for Camden council. "We felt it was a commercial intrusion on the skyline, more so than the current lettering, because the figures are taller and stick out." But Wolf Olin, the design company responsible for BT's new image, denies that the use of architecture as advertising is an issue. "It's not advertising at all," says the company. "It's a corporate message."

Heritage of rubble

AS federal bombers continue to pound Croatia's ancient buildings, with the 14th-century presidential palace in Zagreb the latest victim, heritage groups are left as little more than exasperated onlookers. Yesterday, 26 British art and architectural experts, led by Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, issued an open letter via the federal and Croatian media, imploring all concerned "to save what can still be saved, rather than incurring the condemnation of posterity".

Leo Van Nispen, head of the International Council of Monuments and Sites, says: "This is a very tricky subject. We are meeting the deputy director-general of Unesco tomorrow to discuss Yugoslavia. We want to find ways to support people who want to preserve buildings. The destruction is terrible, and I hope we can raise world opinion to stop it."

Why is it that prime ministers choose colleagues with such terrible handwriting to be education secretary? For years one educationist has been collecting the signatures of holders of the post, all of whom have loved to lecture the land on the importance of the

"three Rs". Must write in a cursive, say observers, but none has been quite so awful as Kenneth Clarke's signature. "It is unreadable," says David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers. "It's the worst I've ever seen. Not even level one on the national curriculum."



CHECKING THE BILL

One of the love affairs of British politics used to be between the Conservative party and the police, the "party of law and order" and its long right arm. The romance is over, all ardour spent. Yesterday the Police Federation sent its vice-chairman, Richard Coyle, to Blackpool to give the Tories a piece of its mind. He addressed a Tory fringe meeting in the language not of courtesy but of recrimination. Today the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, will lead the law and order debate at the Tory party conference, and his attitude towards the police is likely to be as cool as its attitude to him.

Being "sound on crime and punishment" was once the firmest plank in the Tory platform. In the first half of the 1980s, this meant accepting the police diagnosis that "crime waves" could only be countered by spending far more on police pay, manpower and equipment. The Home Office eagerly pumped out its quarterly "reported crime figures", that most bogus record of police activity, showing an apparently ever-upwards trend in crime. Yesterday the federation repeated the nonsense with the claim that crime had "doubled" since 1981, for which there is no reputable evidence. Meanwhile, spending on the police has risen from £1.4 billion in 1978/9 to £4.2 billion in 1989/90. When it comes to the police (and prison staff) the Tories have followed producer-led policies with a vengeance.

This has now rebounded on ministers. Even chief police officers, if not their lower ranks, have come to realise that reported crime waves are now taken as evidence of police failure — and possibly of Tory failure — rather than as evidence of the need for more money for the police. Nothing has soured the police-Tory relationship more than a bitter quarrel about police remuneration, when the government stopped housing and rental allowances worth over £5,000 a year to some officers.

Mr Baker's predecessor, David Waddington, was deliberately cold-shouldered when he attended last year's Police Federation

conference, an annual visit that used to be a festival of mutual admiration. Yesterday Mr Coyle — standing on the right of the federation's leadership — dismissively informed the Conservatives that in comparing various party policies "there is not the thickness of a cigarette paper between the lot of them" on crime and punishment.

Home Office ministers are at last having to acquire a new sophistication in their approach to crime. Bluntly, they have an interest in making law and order seem complicated rather than simple. The accepted wisdom is now that tougher laws and longer sentences merely recruit more pupils for Britain's academies of crime, badly-run and overcrowded prisons. Left-leaning social workers and right-leaning magistrates are equally reluctant to send culprits, particularly juveniles, into custody. The ever wider reach of the law, into drug use, drink-driving and once-accepted business practices, is also extending "crime" into more respectable communities.

Ministers have been converted both to the greater use of bail before trial (as in the 1976 Bail Act) and lesser use of prison after trial (as in the 1991 Criminal Justice Act). By and large public opinion has moved with them, except for the police, for whom "taking villains off the streets" has remained the working definition of the job they do. The Conservative party would do well to respond by treating policemen, as they now seem to wish to be seen, as members of an industrial interest group. Ministers should listen to the more sensible chief constables, but be more sceptical of the views of rank-and-file constables.

After the next election, the police forces and the prison officers, two estates of the realm left largely untouched by Margaret Thatcher's public-sector reforms, will be ripe for change. These changes, to both the criminal law and its enforcement, should make Britain safer and saner. A hint of that from Mr Baker today would be welcome.

GRAVEDIGGERS OF DEMOCRACY

The present spate of murderous attacks by neo-Nazi gangs on asylum-seekers and immigrants across east and west Germany is chilling. Over 500 assaults in the last three weeks have culminated in the desecration of the tombs of Konrad Adenauer and of Robert and Clara Schumann at cemeteries near Bonn. Nothing could better illustrate the perpetrators' nihilistic creed than this insult to both the father of the Federal Republic and one of the greatest of composers.

To lament barbarism is easy; to deal with its resurgence is not. Strict laws that prohibit the public display of swastikas and other symbols already exist. Once loathed by the left, the *Verfassungsschutz*, the office for the protection of the constitution, keeps extreme right-wing parties under surveillance and bans neo-Nazi ones.

If anything, the far right has been restricted more than the left, as the presence in the Bundestag of the PDS, successor of the east German communists, suggests. After a brief spasm of activity over 20 years ago, the far right pulled badly outside Bavaria, a few depressed regions and some inner cities. It revived in the late 1980s but was interrupted during reunification, when right-wing voters rallied to Helmut Kohl. Now these voters, reinforced by many east Germans, are disillusioned with Herr Kohl's centrist Christian Democrats.

Last month's unemployment figures, released yesterday, showed a fall for united Germany for the first time since reunification. Violent outbursts are perhaps understandable in the eastern provinces. There unemployment still approaches 12 per cent, despite 1.8 million kept off the dole queues in job-creation schemes and another 1.3 million working short-time, at a huge cost. In addition to this disillusionment, the east also lacks the firm roots of anti-extremism, a modern democratic tradition.

TURN AGAIN, WHITTINGTON

So another citadel of Thatcherism falls. The government has decided to give London back what is quaintly termed "a voice". The consultations now under way for a reform of local government in provincial England are to be extended to the capital. Five years after the abolition of the Greater London Council and dispersal of its powers to a ragbag of government quangos and local joint committees, the yearning for a more specific reflection of London's political identity is recognised. MPs, London borough councils, businesses, public opinion, even those who said good riddance to the bloated GLC, have come round to the view that the capital needs some strategic government after all.

The significance of the volte face will depend on how genuine it proves to be. GLC abolition never heralded much of a reduction in government. In so far as it gave more power to the boroughs, for instance over education, abolition has proved to be a good thing. In so far as it shuffled functions off to ad hoc boards, as with property ownership and the fire and ambulance services, it merely changed bureaucracy's outer garment. For the most part, abolition was part and parcel of the government's eagerness to centralise power in Whitehall, taking unto itself decisions as big as public transport investment and as small as arts subsidies and alterations to historic buildings.

Yet already it is reported that the new body would be appointed by ministers and not elected. There is already a consultative planning council for London and the South-East, of which few have heard and to which even fewer listen. It is conceivable that a

The West is a different matter. It was predictable that Europe's richest country would attract large numbers of immigrants. The Federal Republic has taken in millions over the past few years: East Europeans, Aussiedler (ethnic Germans from the USSR, Poland, Romania), Übersiedler (internal migrants from the former GDR) and Asylanten (refugees, expected to top 200,000 this year).

This week Chancellor Kohl proposed to restrict the constitutional right to political asylum. Though he is opposed by his Free Democrat coalition partners and the opposition Social Democrats, some three quarters of the population appears to support tighter controls. Xenophobic agitation may persuade the left to give Herr Kohl the two-thirds majority he needs to amend the constitution. That might stave off the hard right, but will not eliminate the violence.

Hitler's genocide left postwar Germany a more homogeneous society than it had been before. Prosperity is making it once again visibly multi-racial, and the change is not to everybody's taste. Germans will probably have to live with the bad publicity of racist attacks. As the benefits of political and economic freedom spread throughout eastern Europe, some of the emotion, and the momentum, may go out of immigration. In addition, more could — and no doubt will — be done to protect the victims of racism.

But the asylum-seekers, who live in enforced idleness for years on end as their cases meander through the bureaucracy, are only the occasion for such attacks. It is fortunate that, as the historian Golo Mann said yesterday, the Federal Republic has far deeper democratic roots than those of the Weimar Republic. There can be no compromise with those who set immigrants' hostels alight; for they are opposed, not merely to foreigners, but to democracy itself.

quango could be given legal status, with access to borrowing and strategic planning powers, for instance over commercial development and public and private transport. It would have to override borough plans and be able in certain circumstances to defy central government. There is little prospect of the present cabinet, firmly under the Treasury's thumb, agreeing to that. Nor would it be right to give power to a body so lacking in democratic legitimacy.

There is no point in ramming yet more consultative committees down the choking throat of London government. Such recent disasters of centralised rule as the tax-free boom-and-bust in Docklands, the delays to the Heathrow and Channel tunnel rail links and the failure of London teaching hospital reorganisation all suggest that if ministers insist on taking decisions, they had better carry the can for them alone. The only basis for truly devolved government to the capital is the vote, and the only vote that would make sense is for a city-wide mayor, whose financial and planning powers would be strictly defined by statute.

Michael Heseltine's cabinet colleagues are known to be terrified of such radicalism. But the Tories have shown they are nervous of going into an election with nothing to offer London. Labour and the Liberal Democrats are both pledged to re-establish an elected government, more or less on the GLC model. If it were based on an elected mayor, the Tory alternative would be preferable, but it must be the authentic voice of a London electorate, not another Whitehall squeak.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Escaping the net in the book trade

From Mr John Attenborough

Sir, As one of the surviving members of the expert witnesses in the net book agreement case of 1963, I would remind you and your readers that the agreement was upheld by Lord Justice Buckley and his four assessors because its retention was held to be in the interest of the reading public.

It was clear that the book trade was not analogous to the provision of high street groceries. To quote the title of the book written by Ronald Baker after the case was decided, "books are different".

As a tradesman, I would say that the only change in the book trade which has occurred since 1963 is a shift of power: the power of chain bookselling; the power of multinational publishing groups; the power of television which occupies so much leisure time; and the power of the cult of bestsellers.

It will be common knowledge to all retail traders that discounting by powerful retail interests results in a demand for lower prices from the supplier, longer terms of credit and, in the case of books, the right to return unsold copies.

As a novelist, I would imagine that my fellow-authors will have to expect revised royalty arrangements — either lower royalty rates on the published price, as they did in the case of book clubs and cheap editions; or possibly, in a computer age, royalty rates based on cut prices rather than published prices which have been breached by retail discounts.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ATTENBOROUGH
(President, Publishers Association, 1963-7)
Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
October 2.

From Mr Jonathan M. Reuviv

Sir, Without wishing to weaken the force of your arguments against the net book agreement (leading article, September 30) there are some important respects in which the book-selling business differs significantly from the grocery or hardware trades. 1. The independent book trade relies on "sale or return" terms from most trade publishers. So long as these terms remain on offer, the local bookshop will be able to hold a wide range of titles, of which many will not be sold. As a corollary, publishers are encouraged to continue subsidising the works of new authors for which book-shelf distribution within the trade is assured.

2. The battle for survival by many independent food shops, and subsequently hardware stores, was fought against the large chains by forming "symbol group" associations with sufficient purchasing power to negotiate promotional programmes from the manufacturers, enabling them to compete

with the retail giants on equal terms and to generate store traffic.

These programmes were retained at heavy discounts against recommended retail prices and entitled reductions in both manufacturer and retailer margins. If bookshops were inclined to combine themselves into similar groups and to abandon the sale or return of promotional products (by definition, fast movers), they might find that the margin sacrifice was slight and the gross profit contribution considerable. So far, the inclination of the independent bookseller to act in concert is noticeably absent.

3. For a time, even the town-centre independent grocers in their symbol-trading groups fought successfully against the high street multiples, as did the hardware stores. In the long run they were defeated by the advent of out-of-town supermarket emporia and DIY superstores. Independent booksellers are unlikely to face similar competition for their regular customers from the megastores.

As the costs of printing and publishing a book decline, and as the book-buying public becomes more price-sensitive, the luxury of hardcover publications may well be reserved for academic and technical works and for the novels of bestselling authors.

However, any threat to the rich variety of books published or the steady stream of new authors, who are the lifeblood of successful publishing houses, seems unlikely. Resale price maintenance for books is not an issue which will cause the reading public to campaign in the streets.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN REUVIV
(Publisher, European Bookseller, 29 Circus Road, NW8.
October 2.

From Mr D. E. Barnard

Sir, Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos, hopes to encourage wider reading by discounting various titles in his range of bookshops, including Dillons. I wonder if he has given some thought to his company's pricing of educational textbooks.

Last week, in response to a telephone inquiry, the publisher of an A-level geography textbook told me that its retail price was £10.50. On walking into Dillons later that day I found the book on sale at £15.

Perhaps Mr Maher would be so good as to explain to us in the educational world why his company is so committed to discounting the price of "text" books (for example, best-selling fiction) and raising the price of "non-text" books?

Yours faithfully,
D. E. BARNARD (Headmaster),
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys,
St John's Road,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Brighton to Blackpool

From Lord Home of The Hirsel

Sir, Having heard much of the Labour party conference I hope that someone at the Conservative conference will remind the electorate that applied socialism has brought an unacceptably low standard of living to millions of ordinary people in Eastern Europe whose lives have been ruined.

That is scarcely a recommendation for bringing that economic system to Britain.

Yours faithfully,
HOME OF THE HIRSEL,
The Hirsel,
Coldstream, Berwickshire.

From Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, for Staffordshire South (Conservative)

Sir, So Mr Kinnock now favours fixed-term parliaments. His conversion would surely be more credible if he did not attack the prime minister for behaving as if he does too (report, "Major's election leak backfires", October 2).

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK CORMACK,
House of Commons.

Casualty treatment

From Dr Nicholas C. Birch

Sir, The report, *Saving Lives*, from the Institute of Economic Affairs (details, September 30) correctly condemns the standard of care in this country's casualty departments. Although establishing a series of trauma centres across the country would in theory improve survival of trauma victims, this would not cure the root of the problem which is the inexperience of casualty officers.

The majority of casualty units are staffed by senior house officers who have only just completed the pre-registration year. They are therefore woefully inexperienced and cannot be expected to administer expert care to seriously injured people, especially as they may never have had to deal with this sort of patient prior to starting their casualty job.

As part of the requirements for surgical training, the royal colleges of surgery require each trainee to spend six months as a casualty officer, but do not specify when. If surgical trainees were not allowed to do their casualty training until their second or third year after registration, the level of experience within accident departments would rise dramatically, as would the standard of care for all victims of trauma.

This would go some way to preventing the 1,000 needless deaths that occur in our casualty departments each year.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS C. BIRCH
3 Fayerfield, The Causeway,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Alleged wrongs on asylum rights

From the Immigration Minister

Sir, I would like to correct some points about our proposed new asylum procedures in the letter from Mr Blom-Cooper and others (October 4). As I have said before (letter, August 9, 1990), the threat to the institution of asylum does not come from governments but from the growing number of people who abuse it by making spurious asylum applications in order to circumvent the normal immigration controls.

Most applications are made by people already in the UK in order to prolong their stay. In three years applications have risen from 100 a week to 1,000 a week. Only about a quarter are found to be genuine refugees. The pattern is repeated across Europe, with the disturbing consequences we have seen recently. These are the pressures of the real world that your correspondents have failed to take into account. Britain has a long tradition of providing refuge for people who face imprisonment, torture or death because of their beliefs or origins. The 1951 UN refugee convention provides the proper definition of a refugee and the government does not and will not turn away anyone if they meet those criteria.

Mr Blom-Cooper and his associates do not and cannot substantiate their allegations to the contrary. All cases are assessed individually, and the courts have repeatedly held that the test which is applied is consistent with the convention.

It is wrong to characterise our proposed legislation as "a series of restrictive measures". Our aim is to curb the growing abuse of the asylum system but at the same time to strengthen the protection of genuine refugees. To this end, we will provide a right of appeal to the independent immigration appellate authorities within the UK for all applicants who are refused asylum. We will set out in the immigration rules a clear statement of when someone must be granted asylum and the circumstances in which they should be refused.

The "fast-track" procedures mentioned in the letter apply only at the new appeal stage. The information on which the initial determination is based will continue to be gathered through interviews and questionnaires. In the event of a refusal, the adjudicator will be able to refuse leave for an appeal on the papers when he is satisfied that it is clearly unfounded. If he is in any doubt he will call for a full oral hearing.

We will protect the rights of the genuine asylum-seeker. But it is clear that fear of persecution is no longer the dominant element for many would-be asylum-seekers. In only a minority of cases in the United Kingdom are the applicants shown to have a "well-founded fear of persecution", as required by the

convention. Those who fear for the institution of asylum should recognise this reality and support the steps which the government is taking to deal with the present levels of abuse and to protect the interests of genuine refugees.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LLOYD,
Immigration Minister Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

From Mr G. Lauder-Frost
Sir, We are a very small country with a large population. We have insufficient housing, jobs, money. For Mr Blom-Cooper and others to speak of "a betrayal of some of the finest and bravest people in the world" if Britain departs from the 1951 convention on refugees is preposterous.

The government estimates that we have some 50,000 of these people a year at present. This is, in my opinion, unacceptable. Most of them are economic migrants and the government is right to deport them at the earliest convenience, just as it is right to deport the Vietnamese economic migrants from Hong Kong. I would like to see the strictest possible entry to Britain for those of other cultures and countries. Why, for instance, were Karl Marx and Lenin, purveyors of evil which later turned to tyranny and murder, allowed to come here? And why do we accept people here from all over the world? Are we always the nearest "free" country?

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY LAUDER-FROST
(Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Monday Club),
BCM "Conservative", WC1.

From Dr M. L. Pirouet

Sir, Charter '87's steering committee wrote to the home secretary last July, raising the same concerns expressed by Mr Blom-Cooper, and received an answer in a tone which can only be described as dismissive. I will quote two typical passages:

On the matter of the motivation of asylum seekers, it is clear from the determination rates throughout Europe that fear of persecution is the motivating factor in only a minority of cases. . . . you suggest that asylum procedures should comply with those under article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights in criminal prosecutions. The Government does not accept that procedures established for criminal prosecutions are relevant to the handling of asylum or other immigration applications.

The prime minister (report, October 5) has received and listened to doctors' representatives on the future of the health service. The asylum issue is equally worthy of a proper hearing.

Yours faithfully,
M. LOUISE PIROUET
(Coordinator, Charter '87 for Refugees),
8 Geldart Street, Cambridge.

Future of BAE

From Sir Peter Masefield

Sir, How encouraging — and how right — that the good sense of so many individual shareholders in British Aerospace has so firmly endorsed its rights issue looking, properly, to the long term rather than the short (report, October 8). At the forefront are many of us who either have been, or are at present, at the sharp end of the company or of its earlier components.

If the effects of the current recession were not enough (combined with those of the welcome end to the Cold War), the negative short-term views on the part of some elements of the City and of the media have balefully combined to undermine confidence in the future of a company of so much importance to our national well-being, and to technological employment and training in years to come.

BAE has a range of current and development products which can achieve for Britain and Europe world leadership in significant competitive fields. No one who knows about the business can doubt that, with good management, its shop-floor skills and a vigorous marketing approach, combined with adequate investment and determination to succeed, the present difficulties will be other than temporary.

With determination, confidence and vigour we should encourage and support Sir Graham Day and his management, design, development and production teams, on their way forward to the prosperity and security for themselves, and for the nation, which surely can be achieved.

Sincerely,
PETER G. MASEFIELD
(Managing Director,
Bristol Aircraft Ltd, 1956-60),
Roschild, Doods Way,
Reigate, Surrey,
October 8.

Middle-age spread

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Mr Jeffrey Robinson (October 4) wonders what has happened to the description "middle-aged". Currently, a somewhat mature student of 60 at Manchester University, I qualify for, and regularly use, a British Rail young person's railcard.

When my course is complete I will, of course, switch immediately to a senior citizen's railcard. So middle age for me will not exist — at least in one official sense.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,
Wingrove, 57 Macclesfield Road,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Non-executive directors

From Sir Edward du Cann

Sir, You are right to say in your leading article, "Poverty of management" (September 27), that "Britain is desperately short of top-quality managers with broad experience". You are also right that "non-executive directors from outside are vital in bringing experience . . . to the boardroom". Nothing can be more important in the national economic interest.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of Promotion of Non-Executive Directors, a worthy organisation, rightly suggests (*Business News*, September 30) that their title should be changed to emphasise their independence. Current legislation, however, is a severe discouragement to the acceptance of a non-executive appointment as a director of any company.

The law now makes no distinction between the part-time non-executive director and the full-time executive. Non-executive directors

have the responsibility of applying an independent judgment to a company's affairs, but they must rely upon the limited information supplied by management.

If they are now to be held fully accountable at law for a company's trading misfortunes (possibly even for a company's debts), whether responsible for them or not, they are hardly likely to make their experience readily available to industry and particularly to ailing companies, however badly both, and the national interest, may need it.

The risks involved in accepting a non-executive appointment are now so real, particularly at a time of economic recession when a record number of companies have met difficulties, that they are hardly likely to be acceptable to many of those whose broad experience is so badly needed in the boardroom.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD DU CANN,
9 Tufton Court, Tufton Street, SW1.
October 1.

Value of prayer

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, Omniscience does not entail knowing what cannot be known, and since the future does not yet exist there is a proper sense in which God can be said not to know it.

God may know it as possibility, and he may know his own capacity to fulfil his purposes within it. But if human freedom is real, as I believe it needs to be if morality is to have any significance, the precise shape of the future must depend among other things on the exercise of that human freedom in response to or defiance of God. Prayer clearly has a vital role to play in such a relationship.

Is God, then, bound by time? Only as a consequence of his own decision to limit himself in the act of creation. God, as it were, subjects

himself to the limitations of space and time precisely in order to create the possibility of a free response to him on the part of his creation.

Christian theology is, or ought to be, familiar with such ideas, and I am surprised that Dr Cohn-Sherbok (article, September 30; letters, October 7) has not also seen them as implicit in the Jewish idea of co-creation. History is not a film already made and simply waiting to be shown, but is a risky process of co-operation between God and his creatures.

Confidence about the end relies on the character of God, not on belief that the story has already been written.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe Palace,
Bishopthorpe, York.

Overseas aid

From Mr Uvedale Tristram

Sir, Mr Martin Griffiths, the chief executive of ActionAid, complains (October 3) about the level of Britain's overseas aid, using the largely meaningless percentage of GNP measure beloved of the aid lobby.

It may be possible to raise this level, but the quality of Britain's aid is probably the highest in the world. Yours etc.

UVEDALE TRISTRAM (Director of Information, Freedom from Hunger Campaign, UK Committee, 1967-73),
19 Mallards Reach,
Weybridge, Surrey.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Recycling cans

From Dr D. A. Harris

Sir, Whatever is the case with recycling other products (report and leading article, October 7), recycling certainly does pay when it comes to used aluminium beverage cans. In 1990 the UK aluminium industry paid £2 million to aluminium-can collectors and we now have 350 collection centres.

Collectors receive 1p per can and the industry will accept as many aluminium cans as are collected. If all of the aluminium cans were returned to us we would pay out £30 million this year.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HARRIS
(Secretary General),
Aluminium Federation Ltd.,
Broadway House, Calthorpe Road,
Five Ways, Birmingham 15.

Reclaimed from the snobs



single-minded intelligence he brings to duties political, episcopal and ethical. With one representing the 'sensible' and emotional, and the other the intellectual and spiritual, they make a pair the more fascinating for their obvious dissimilarity. So what here explains Henry's ungovernable obsession with a man Jacobus variously suggests is pragmatic, cynical, caring, worldly, other-worldly, and, until he finds his true destination, deeply divided in himself? Offered by Daniel Ivernel, who created the role of Henry in Paris, and Laurence Olivier, who played it in New York. There is much to justify this in the writing, from the king's liking for sexual sharing to his disgust with his wife; yet it is too glib a label for Lindsay's performance, a marvellously restless blend of power and vulnerability, rage and self-mockery, and much else besides. What he comes to regret as his unrequited 'love' for Becket reflects yearnings far beyond the physical: a hatred of the mediocrity round him, a desperate desire for reassurance, perhaps even a hankering for the depth he senses in his maddeningly remote, elusive cousin.

The supporting cast includes David Lyon and Ken Bones, and Ronnie Stevens and Trevor Ray as burlesque Vatican potentates. Michael Yagan has designed an admirable set, a peacock Beyerly tapestry whose towering doors sweep apart to reveal a forest, a winter field, even flapping black curtains, representing a storm at sea. But what I shall mainly remember is Lindsay's anguished call for the death of a man he still adores. After all, how else can he find peace?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

Becket

Theatre Royal, Haymarket

WHEN Anouilh's play hit London, back in 1961, Kenneth Tynan dismissed it as a sentimental-satirical chronicle by one of art's second-raters. Even its author's academic admirer, Philip Thody, found it bland if entertaining. But wasn't there a touch of highbrow snobishness in such reactions? Anouilh had no strong religious nerve, and never aspired to write a Gallic version of Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. But what Elijah Moshinsky's production offers is far from negligible: a fluent, vivid play which allows two fine actors, Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay, to give riveting performances.

True, it is not to be recommended to those wanting an accurate history lesson. That painfully conscious law-maker, Henry II, becomes a bombastic egotist, more responsible than his oafish barons only because of Becket's influence. Gilbert Foliot, a notably wise Bishop of London, might be a 12th century Ku Klux Klanman, so hostile is he to the "bastard upstart" promoted above him. Most obviously, that turbulent Norman, Becket himself, becomes a Saxon of improbable urbanity. "For a serious-minded man," wrote Anouilh when this last error was pointed out, "it would have meant the collapse of his play. But I am a flippant and easy-going man, and I decided I didn't care. What about you?"

Since he asked, let me reply that I cared a lot less than I had expected.

Saint and sinner: Derek Jacobi (Becket) and Robert Lindsay (Henry II)

What seemed to matter was not so much Anouilh's view that medieval England was an occupied nation, like France in the 1940s or Algeria in the 1950s, and that Henry's posthumous reconciliation with Becket ended the bitterness between a racist Norman nobility and a brutalised Saxon peas-

antly. It was not even Becket's moral self-discovery, though Jacobi plays it with an unaffected gravity. It was the increasingly tortured rapport between him and Lindsay's Henry.

What matters to Henry, even more than power, is his love for his friend. But what mainly marks Becket is the second world war army training and shows how he did it.

The opening and closing plays of the triptych, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Broadway Bound*, have been seen in London. *Biloxi Blues* marks time, by necessity enclosed in the specialised world of the army camp. Eugene manages to make love at last, with a good-natured, part-time tart (Claudia McNulty, the long-legged blonde of every adolescent fantasy); and then falls romantically for literature-loving college girl, played with sense and sweetness by Sally Ann Matthews.

But for the most part the action is confined to barracks and Eugene's observations of his fellow recruits and their sadistic, possibly mad, sergeant. Simon is invariably compared with Alan Ayckbourn. Both are prolific, professional, and sometimes hilar-

THEATRE

Biloxi Blues

Liberty Theatre, Manchester

NOT to get killed and to lose one's virginity are exceptional ambitions for fledgling soldiers and, indeed, fledgling theatre critics. But Eugene Jerome also wants to be a writer. Since he is the thinly disguised younger self of author Neil Simon, we have achieved two of these aims and had delicately assumed he managed the other one.

Manchester has enterprisingly given the British premiere of the centrepiece of Simon's autobiographical trilogy that takes him through his

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Giulini

Festival Hall

Steady: Carlo Maria Giulini by erratic dramatic pacing and by eschewing any routine solo performance. It will be difficult to forget the guttural breaths of cellos and voices in the opening "Requiem," and the sudden glint as the word "lucifer" surfaced through the translucent orchestration. Moments such as Cole's powerfully phrased "ingemisco" and the tremulous strings as they accompanied the soul from death to new life will also stay long in the memory.

But this *Requiem* is not made of moments. The essential impetus which propels it from sounding trumpets to the numbness of death, from the pyre of the accused to the dance of the Sanctus, was missing. As Abraham and his descendants started on their steady march past, final rest eternal seemed just too far away.

HILARY FINCH

Everything But The Girl

Bloomsbury Theatre

FOR those fans of Everything But The Girl used to seeing Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn as distant figures on the Royal Albert Hall stage, this was a rare opportunity for intimacy. The duo, plus full band, will be back in big league settings when they tour in the new year. Meanwhile, a two-night residency at the Bloomsbury Theatre, an intimate treat for the faithful, an acoustic set built of cover versions and songs from the duo's newly-released album, *Worldwide*.

As such, it was also an opportunity for bonding. At close quarters, Watt and Thorn can be seen to dress in the same relaxed, unobtrusively fashionable style as their audience. And, given that two-thirds of the set was devoted to an eclectic selection of other people's songs, there was the added enjoyment of comparing record collections. Consequently a ripple of anticipation greeted Thorn's introductions to numbers by Springsteen ("Tougher Than The Rest") or Costello ("The Angels Want To Wear My Red Shoes"), emphasising how much the duo has in common with its fans.

Good taste is taken as read, of course. After the cheerful vulgarity of

the early Abba tapes played in the foyer before the show, it took time to adjust to the richness of Thorn's delivery on Michael McDonald's "I Can Let Go Now" or their own "Do You Remember The Train". Accompanied by Watt on guitar or synthesiser, she went on to prove herself an interpretive singer of imagination and intelligence on material as diverse as Gershwin's "The Man I Love", Chrissie Hynde's "Kid" or Tom Waits's "Downtown Train". Meanwhile Watt's voice, always sympathetic on harmonica, brought a vulnerable quality to solo readings of Tim Buckley and Muddy Waters. To quibble, the impulsive variety of the set - both in covers and original songs - was undercut somewhat by Everything But The Girl's familiar unity of pace. You feel the pair would rather die than ask an audience to clap along, while the prospect of their launching into a dance routine remains unthinkable. As a result, even "Twin Cities", the jaunty track on *Worldwide*, became a dignified ballad in live performance. Yet Watt and Thorn transcend the limitations inherent within their field of thoughtful, grown-up pop for one simple reason. They are better at it than almost anyone else around.

ALAN JACKSON

Arts features, page 17

NEW RELEASES

THE COMMITMENTS (15): Hard-boiled Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and beautifully played, a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. (MCA Home Video, £14.95).

GALAHAD OF EVEREST (PG): Brian Blessed climbs Everest in salute to pioneer climber George Mallory. Modest documentary which belies what it will end up as Christmas - on television. (MCA Home Video, £14.95).

JULIA HAS TWO LOVERS (15): One lover is Julia's husband; the other, a stranger, is her lover. A fine, understated performance by Julia Roberts. (MCA Home Video, £14.95).

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CURRENT

CLOSE MY EYES (15): Social games between brother and sister one long hot London summer. A fine, understated performance by Julia Roberts. (MCA Home Video, £14.95).

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LADY DAY AT EMMERSON'S BAR (15): Chris Cullaway plays Billie Holiday, telling her life story. (MCA Home Video, £14.95).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

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THEATRE

Becket Theatre Royal, Haymarket

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CONCERT

Philharmonia/Giulini Festival Hall

Steady: Carlo Maria Giulini by erratic dramatic pacing and by eschewing any routine solo performance. It will be difficult to forget the guttural breaths of cellos and voices in the opening "Requiem," and the sudden glint as the word "lucifer" surfaced through the translucent orchestration. Moments such as Cole's powerfully phrased "ingemisco" and the tremulous strings as they accompanied the soul from death to new life will also stay long in the memory.

But this *Requiem* is not made of moments. The essential impetus which propels it from sounding trumpets to the numbness of death, from the pyre of the accused to the dance of the Sanctus, was missing. As Abraham and his descendants started on their steady march past, final rest eternal seemed just too far away.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

SKEG (a) A projection from or in place of a keel in a small boat, hence the stabilising fin on the underside of a surfboard, from the Dutch *skag*. "These were the new famous Malibu boards, 10 feet long and made of balsa, with a skeg for greater control."

ZIMOCCA (a) A type of bath-sponge, from the modern Latin word: "He equipped himself for the bath as though for war, with loofah, flannels, essence of West Indian herbs, and a zimocca as large and luxuriant as a hay bale."

WOKRAL (b) A monitor lizard, from the Arabic word: "I have seen several Wokrals keep exact time and motion with the Derivatives in their circulatory Dances."

ROOSE (a) To praise, extol, commend, flatter, from the ON *rois* to boast or praise: "Some there roosed their hawk, their hawk, And some there roosed their house."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Kern, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from the famous Fide World Championship, Bern 1985. White to play and win.

THE BOARD:

White: King, Queen, Rook, Knight, Bishop, Pawn. Black: King, Queen, Rook, Knight, Bishop, Pawn.

THE MOVE: White plays 1. e4, Black plays 1... e5. White plays 2. Nf3, Black plays 2... Nf6. White plays 3. Bb5, Black plays 3... a6. White plays 4. Bxc6, Black plays 4... bxc6. White plays 5. d4, Black plays 5... d5. White plays 6. exd5, Black plays 6... exd5. White plays 7. Nxe5, Black plays 7... Nxe5. White plays 8. Qh5, Black plays 8... g6. White plays 9. Qxg6, Black plays 9... hxg6. White plays 10. Nf3, Black plays 10... Nf6. White plays 11. Bb5, Black plays 11... a6. White plays 12. Bxc6, Black plays 12... bxc6. White plays 13. d4, Black plays 13... d5. White plays 14. exd5, Black plays 14... exd5. White plays 15. Nxe5, Black plays 15... Nxe5. White plays 16. Qh5, Black plays 16... g6. White plays 17. Qxg6, Black plays 17... hxg6. White plays 18. Nf3, Black plays 18... Nf6. White plays 19. Bb5, Black plays 19... a6. White plays 20. Bxc6, Black plays 20... bxc6. White plays 21. d4, Black plays 21... d5. White plays 22. exd5, Black plays 22... exd5. White plays 23. 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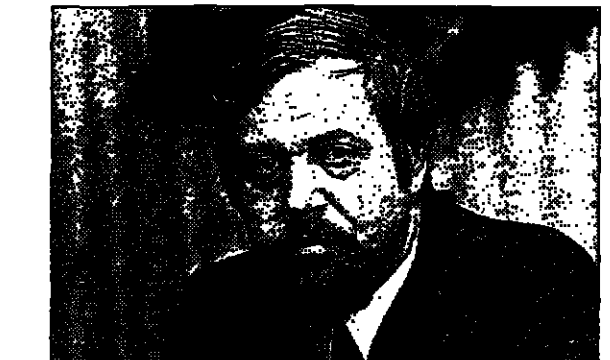
1.00 Coolest 6.30 Breakfast News
1.05 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series.
1.30 Conservative Party Conference. Live coverage of the second day's proceedings, beginning with the debate on transport.
1.00 News. regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays.** For the very young **10.25 The Family News.** Cartoon adventures (r)
1.35 Conservative Party Conference. Includes a debate on the environment, a key manifesto debate on the economy and an address by Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer. With news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00. **12.55 Regional news and weather**
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Four Squares (s)**
2.15 Knots Landing. West Coast of America-based spin-off from the Dallas saga **3.05 Pot Black.** A quarter-final match between the world champion John Parrott and Doug Mountjoy
3.30 Flintstones 30 Years. Son of Rockzilla continues the week's tribute to 30 years of the Stone Age cartoon family (r) **3.50 Doctor's Diary.** Truck (r) **3.55 Orville and Cuddles.** Cartoon series **4.00 F.L.L.P.** Comedy series (s) **4.20 The Chipmunks.** Cartoon (r) **4.35 Heartbeat.** Tony Hart and Gabrielle's sadism with more innovative ways of creating pictures. (Ceefax) (s)
5.00 Newsworld 5.10 Byker Grove. Episode 19 of the 20-part children's drama (r). (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster **5.50 Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Hawley. Weather **5.55 Regional News** magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
6.00 Wogan. Another night's guests are the soprano Kiri Te Kanawa, who was seen singing last night on BBC1 in Paul McCartney's Liverpool Cavernia, and Princess Michael of Kent (s)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. The 1,000th edition of the series looks back at some of the inventions first seen on the programme, including the breathalyzer (1967), lights (1967) and the phonograph (1983). In an up-to-date item Judith Henn reports from Sweden where a giant umbrella has been erected over part of a forest to assess how it recovers from the damaging effects of acid rain. (Ceefax) (s)
8.00 Specials. Lively police drama about five ordinary men and women from different walks of life who have become special constables. Tonight's episode introduces John Redwood (Brian Gwynne), a solicitor who was spurred to join the "specials" after a mugger beat up his 14-year-old son and left him paralysed and wheelchair-bound. (Ceefax) (s)
8.55 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour party
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather



Justice French style: Michael Mansfield demonstrates (8.30pm)

9.30 Inside Story: Pressured Guilty.
 ● CHOICE: Departing from its usual format of "third person" documentaries, *Inside Story* gives the floor to the barrister Michael Mansfield to speak his mind about the British system of criminal justice. He does not think much of it. Indeed he brands it as a tragic failure. Mansfield, who numbers among his clients the Birmingham Six, gives a step-by-step analysis of failings and offers a series of remedies. Like many who are critical of the British system, he favours the French method of taking the control of criminal investigations out of the hands of the police and passing it over to an independent prosecutor. He proposes that video recordings should be used as a safeguard against false confessions. His most radical proposal is that juries, not judges, should decide appeals. He is a persuasive argument, delivered with passion and eloquence. After some recent cases, much of it may be difficult to resist. (Ceefax)
10.20 Sportlight presented by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is boxing: Manchester's Pat Barrett defends his European light welterweight title against the Denmark-based Rashed Saeval. From the G-Max centre, Manchester; Football: a preview of next week's European championship matches; Horse of the Year Show: the first of four days of action from the Wembley Arena; and Skiing: a report from Hintersee, Austria, where the British Olympic ski team is in training **12.00 Weather**

8.00 News
8.15 The Travel Show Traveller. John Thirkwell with his personal opinion of travel in Italy (r)
8.20 The Shogun Inheritance. This fifth in the six-part series on Japan's heritage examines the types of entertainment enjoyed by the various classes (r)
**9.00 Daytime on Two: It Doesn't Have to Hurt 8.10 What is Right and What is Wrong? 9.30 Diez Temas 9.45 You and Me 10.00 Thinkabout Science 10.15 Search Out Science 10.35 Q and A 10.40 Around Scotland: the Clearances 11.00 Words and Pictures 11.15 English Time 11.35 Teaching Today 11.55 TV8: Out of the Box's House 12.30 Hecchool: Carers 12.55 English Viva 1.20 Postman Pat 1.35 Crystal Tipps and Allstar 1.40 Zig Zag: Swimming Technology
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 Conservative Party Conference. Further live coverage from Blackpool, presented by Donald MacCormick, Vivian White and Ian Smith. This afternoon's proceedings include Kenneth Baker, the home secretary addressing replies to the debate of home affairs. Plus the debates on housing and planning, and Northern Ireland. With news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50
5.30 John Towse's Entertainment on a Plate. In this last of his series, the cookery expert presents a buffet of unusual vegetable dishes for his class of keen amateur cooks
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. As the crew prepares to launch a research unit to study a predicted star burst a mysterious breakdown of the Enterprise's main computer threatens to destroy the starship. Starring Patrick Stewart. (Ceefax)
6.50 D&P II begins with Rough Guide to the World's Journeys. The first of a new series in which Mercedes de Vinne and Samira Guba explore different exciting ways to spend a two-week holiday, beginning in Australia. **7.40 Gimme & Liss** Anson presents *Mondo-Sono*, a French-African music programme showing a selection of music videos made in African states**



Going west: Dmitri Dostoevsky dreams of a Mercedes (8.10pm)

8.10 Bookworm: Dostoevsky's Travels
 ● CHOICE: Devotees of *The Third Man* will remember the richly comic scene in which Joseph Cotten, a hack writer of westerns, is mistaken for a literary eminence and has to fend off the jibes in Paul Pawlikowski's diverting documentary in which Dmitri Dostoevsky takes his first trip to Western Europe. Dmitri, great-grandson of the more famous Russian, is a St Petersburg tram driver who has an interest in literature. His main object is to buy a second-hand Mercedes and he knows how to play the game. Feted by the Dostoevsky Society of Germany, he hastily cobble together a lecture and is praised for "introducing an existential approach". There is more in similar vein, as Dostoevsky becomes a media celebrity, meets the pretender to the Russian throne and gets a bit part in a film. Meanwhile he saves up his marks for the coveted Mercedes.
9.00 M*A*S*H. To cheer the men up after a dreary Christmas, Col Potter gets the officers and men to trade places, with Klinger ending up as company commander (r)
9.25 The Men's Room. Episode three of Laura Lamson's five-part drama of adultery among university folk. Charity (Harriet Walter) is feeling depressed because her husband has discovered her affair with her professor, Mark (Bil Heward-Mills), and started an affair of his own. Meanwhile, the womanising Mark continues his life of deceit. (Ceefax)
10.15 Fifth Column. Professor Noble of Oxford University, who runs the Save British Science Society, asks why Britain doesn't take science seriously
10.25 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour party
10.30 Newsnight. Michael Ingham interviews David Hare about his new play *Murdering Judges* (s)
11.55 Weather

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Runway. General knowledge quiz game with holidays as prizes. The questionmaster is Richard Madeley **9.55 Thames News** and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series hosted by the husband and wife team of Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan
12.00 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Ceefax)
12.30 News with John Suchet. (Ceefax) Weather **12.45 Thames News** and weather
12.50 Rugby World Cup 91. beginning at 1.00 with live coverage of the game at Pontypridd between Australia and the surprise conquerors of Wales, Western Samoa. Bob Symonds is the commentator
3.00 Rugby World Cup 91. Live coverage of both Ireland v Japan in Dublin and Scotland v Zimbabwe at Murrayfield (some regions will show the Ireland game, others the Scotland)
5.00 Cartoon Time with Porly Pig
5.10 Blackoutstars. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. (Ceefax) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. The third in Jackie Speckley's week-long series on the health advice of working women
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Ceefax)
6.30 Thames News. (Ceefax)
7.00 Never the Twins. The last in Vince Powell's amiable comedy series starring Donald Sinden and Windsor Davies as the feuding antiquaries dealers. This week Simon decides to sleep on the pavement in order to be first in the queue for a sale "snip". (Ceefax) (s)



Engine troubles: Michael Le Veil and Peter Baldwin (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Vera has a job in mind for Jack - how will he respond? (Ceefax)
7.55 Rugby World Cup 91. Live coverage from Cardiff Arms Park of the Wales v Argentina match, a game that may seal Wales's fate after their sensational loss to Western Samoa at the weekend. Frank Sporkin introduces the action, with commentary by John Taylor. Roy and John are joined by former Welsh international Gerald Davies, David Kirk, the former New Zealand skipper, and England's Gareth Chalkot. Plus highlights of the day's other games including Canada, surprise winners over the fancied Finns, against Romania
10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Labour party
10.05 News with Trevor McDonald and Julia Semmle. (Ceefax) **10.35 Thames News** and weather
10.45 Thames Sport Special. Highlights from some of this evening's Rumbelows cup second round matches, plus the third round draw
12.00 Film: The Onion Field (1979). Joseph Wambaugh's fact-based thriller stars John Savage as a policeman who watches his partner killed during a slay, helps to bring the murderer to trial but breaks down in court. A strongly-written and sometimes violent piece, with punchy performances from Savage and from James Woods as one of the killers. Directed in documentary style by Harold Becker
2.15 America's Top Ten presented by Tommy Puett and Casey Kasem (s)
2.40 Deconstruction. The latest fashions from around the world
3.10 Quiz Night. Inter-club general knowledge quiz
3.40 Books by My Bedside. Author Pat Barker talks to Brough Scott about her current reading matter
4.10 International Yacht Racing. Action from Cowes week, presented by Gareth Evans and Penny Saverly
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newscasts from early October, 1941, including an exchange of prisoners-of-war fiasco
5.00 Witness to Survival. The more stories of ordinary citizens surviving overwhelming odds
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools
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Parents and pastors: Verley and Carmen Prince (11.00pm)

11.00 Us.
 ● CHOICE: A four-part series on immigrant families in Britain starts with the Princes, originally from Jamaica. Mother and father, she a nurse and he a retired railwayman, arrived here with a suitcase. Both are pastors in the Pentecostal Church. They have three sons and seven grandchildren. Their story is told in their own words without commentary. Curiously, given the theme of the series, there is surprisingly little about the immigrant experience as such. Like many British families, of whatever origin, the Princes are concerned to do their best for their children. The three boys are all married with their own families, but still stay close to mum and dad. Sometimes the pressure of family life becomes too much. Dad has had in Jamaica and is thinking of retiring there. Mum is reluctant to leave Britain, particularly as the youngest son is going through a wayward phase and may need her support
11.45 Sums: the London Bash. Lyell Watson and Charles Palmer at London's Albert Hall, introduce some of the competitors in the first sumo competition to be held outside Japan
12.00am Blenheim Audi International. Three-day evening (r)
12.45 Film: Return to Glamour (1951, b/w) starring Joan Wales. A girl set story about a man driving along a lonely road who gives a hitchhiker a lift. The passenger recalls how he once gave two women a lift along the same stretch of road. Directed by Hilton Edwards. Ends at 1.10

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6.55am Weather. News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Purcell (Chaconne, Come Ye Sons of Art), Wynn Mason, trumpet, 6.50 Under Raymond (Lopprell), D'Indy (Symphony on a French Mountain Song), Robert Casadesu, piano, Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy
7.30 News
7.35 Bavarian RSO under Rafael: Glazounov (Two Pieces, Op 20), Steven Isserlis, cello, CO of Europe under John Nesch
8.00 Gardiner: Cole Porter (What Is This Thing Called Love? Gerry Mulligan, baritone saxophone, Ben Webster, tenor saxophone, Jimmy Rowles, piano, Leroy Vinnegar, bass, Mel Lewis, drums), Copland (Dance Symphony, Detroit SO under Arto Oksanen)
8.30 News 8.35 Composers of the Week: 20th Century Japanese Composers: Takemitsu (A Flock Descends into the Pentagonal Garden, Tashi, Boston SO under Ozawa); Toshi Ichihyashi (Cloud Atlas, Nippon SO under Tani); Toshi Ichihyashi (Luminae Space), Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor, Op 26) & 15 Japan Seasons: Mei-Fu, Tokyo 100 years ago 35 Takemitsu (Symphony No 4 in F minor)
9.15 Japan Seasons: Acting Up (CHOICE: The average Japanese man (assuming he exists) emerges badly from this anatomy of the average Japanese woman assuming she exists. "As a human being," says one husband, "I'm helpless". Or does he say "helpless"? That would be more fitting. He doesn't seem to be able to decide whether his wife is his spouse or his mother. One night-bar hostess interviewed tonight sounds as if she is talking good practical sense when she suggests that "Japanese men should probably marry other men. At least that way, they would have something in common")
10.00 Early Music Festival 1991. Tristram and Leont Boston Camerata under Cohen
11.30 News 11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Mozart in Vienna 1781-3 (Strong Quartet in E flat; Concerto for Piano and Violin; Dark IV Holden; Mozart, canon: Sie is dahn; Symphony No 35 in D, K 553)
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only)

1.00 News
1.05 Japan Seasons: Concert Hall, Kazuyoshi Yamashita, guitar, perform Bach (Prelude, fugue and allegro, BWV 988; ar Yamashita); Takemitsu (Police for guitar No 1-3); Alexandre Dumas (Suite, in modo Polono)
2.00 Record Review
2.10 Vintage Years. Shum, Christmas, piano, performs Chopin (Polonaise in C minor, Op 40 No 2); Takemitsu (Piano Concerto No 2 in G; Berlin PO under Krust)
4.00 Choral Evensong live from Salisbury Cathedral
5.00 Japan Seasons: Tani Gakko, choir, orchestra of Japan, 5.30 Mainly for Pleasure with Elise McDougall
7.00 News 7.05 Third Ear
7.30 Japan Seasons: Swansea Festival 1991, Tokyo SO under Kazuyoshi Aoyama and Toshi Ichihyashi (Luminae Space); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor, Op 26) & 15 Japan Seasons: Mei-Fu, Tokyo 100 years ago 35 Takemitsu (Symphony No 4 in F minor)
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4.45 West Coast. David Marshall's story is read by Charles
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
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10.15 The Bible. The Bible, read by David Koepp
10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray meets Val Bourne, founder and director of Dance Umbrella 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time from Birmen in Scotland (r)
12.00 News. You and Yours
12.25pm News Papers: The third part of the trials and tribulations of an upper class family in the 1920s. Written by Peter Ling and Juliet Ace (s) **12.55 Weather**
1.00 The World at One
1.05 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55 Shipping Forecast**
2.00 News. Posters of Montmartre: Arlette Suzy, by John Peacock, based on a character from a Toulouse-Lautrec poster, with Bernard Hill as Arlette Suzy and Julie Covington as Yvette Guilbert (r)
2.47 Treasure Islands with Michael Rosen. Quentin Blake and Catherine Briston consider children's book illustrations, from E.H. Shepherd to Nicola Bayley
3.00 News. Relative Values. Michael O'Donnell explores shifting social attitudes through family life, meeting the Stevensons, a circus family (s) (r)
3.45 Encounters. Christopher Cook dips into the BBC Sound Archives to find out something about the great figures of the past
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NATIONAL Connect

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE UK INCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND
 THE NEXT
 DIRECTORY WILL BE
 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

By STEWART TENDLER AND
SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

The firm of James Bourlet is one of the oldest art transport companies and was founded in 1768. Last year it handled over £1 billion worth of goods. The freight of a simple cup and saucer to New York would cost £60 to £70 while the movement of the *Iris* would cost £1,000 to £1,500.



Plus: Telepoint was expected to make Britain a leader in mobile communications. What went wrong?

The platform party itself resembles a line of Red Indian warriors, probably hostile, coming up over a massive hilltop at us. Few are familiar, so after prayers yesterday the chairman tried to introduce every one, confusing David Waddington with Lady Blatch, a woman who prays Lord Blatch will never make a Blatch will never make. Upon the name "Hessling" some instinctive applause flickered across the hall. Realizing too late whom they had applauded, representatives felt obliged to clap after every name, ending up by applauding complete nonentities. The chairman of Wessex region looked shocked by his rapturous reception.

MATTHEW PARRIS

The map displays the North Atlantic region with several pressure systems and fronts. A low-pressure system (LOW) is centered over the British Isles, with a cold front extending southwest and a warm front extending northeast. High-pressure systems (HIGH) are located to the west and east. The map includes latitude and longitude lines and a legend for front types.

Information supplied by Mkt Office

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30
● LAW REPORT 35
● SPORT 36-40

Sterling falls to bottom of ERM

THE POUND dropped to the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism yesterday for the first time since February 14. It fell sharply against all major currencies, reacting mainly to political anxieties stirred up by the Conservative conference and reports that Margaret Thatcher might spark an anti-Europe revolt.

According to government officials, currency traders turned their attention to the pound as they became increasingly wary of speculating in the dollar, yen and mark ahead of the Group of Seven meeting in New York.

By afternoon trading in New York, the pound was down to DM2.9020 from Monday's London close of 2.9150. But it remained nearly 1½ per cent above its lowest permitted level against the ERM's strongest currency, the peseta.

Comment, page 27

Amex opens debts enquiry

American Express is conducting an investigation into a possible cover-up by middle-management executives of the bad debts on its Optima credit card, which caused the bank to announce a \$265 million write-off last week.

Shareholders are also suing the charge card group for allegedly misrepresenting its financial picture in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Comment, page 27

BM jumps

BM Group, the building products and construction equipment company that bought Blackwood Hodge last November, reports pre-tax profits of £34.1 million (£23.1 million) for the year to end-June. A final dividend of 1.8p makes 3.4p (1.6p).

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7222 (-0.0128)
German mark 2.9105 (-0.0034)
Exchange index 90.4 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1991.6 (+1.9)
FT-SE 100 2599.5 (+3.3)
New York Dow Jones 2953.04 (+10.29)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24155.82 (-175.21)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Provident 507½p (+10p)
Sun Alliance 357½p (+8p)
Phys 218p (+8p)
ADT 527½p (+28p)
ARM 182p (+18p)
BM Group 417½p (+17p)
BOC 602½p (+10p)
Fisons 452½p (+8p)
TALLS 348½p (+8p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10¼%
3-month Interbank 10½-10¾%
3-month eligible bills 9½-9¾%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 5½-5¾%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.02-5.01%
30-year bonds 10¾-10¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.7170
C: DM1.9680
C: DM2.9088
C: Sfr2.5472
C: FF9.8977
C: Yen223.29
C: Index 50.4
C: ECU 60.70369
C: ECU1 4207.18
C: SDR1 270084

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$358.50 pm \$357.50
Close \$357.50-357.80 (\$207.50-208.00)
New York: Comex \$357.75-358.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$22.00 bbl (\$22.00)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Pay cuts follow securities violations

Japan imposes share trading ban on Nomura

From Neil Bennett in London and Joanna Pittman in Tokyo

NOMURA Securities, the world's largest stockbroker, has been banned from share trading for up to six weeks for violating Japan's securities laws.

The punishment was announced by Japan's finance ministry after a four-month investigation into the firm's activities, and is the culmination of the scandals that have rocked Tokyo's financial community all year.

Nomura and Japan's three other main stockbrokers, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi have also agreed to suspend their corporate business for between one and three weeks for their improper compensation of investment losses suffered by favoured clients.

As part of the punishments, Taizo Kondo and Hoichi Kane, Nomura's two most senior executives in London,

are taking 20 per cent pay cuts for three months. Both are believed to earn more than £300,000.

The penalties against Nomura are the most severe in Japan's history, although market analysts believe them to be largely ritual and say they will not result in serious damage to the business.

The punishments are for the company's violation of article 54 of the Securities and Exchange Law, which prohibits the excessive recommendation of a particular stock. Nomura admitted excessively recommended shares in Tokyu Corporation between October 1989 and January 1990, resulting in a surge in the railway company's share price. One of Nomura's main clients for Tokyu shares was Susumu Ishii, former boss of the Inagawa-kai, the largest underworld gang in Tokyo.

guilty, however, under article 125 of the law, which covers stock manipulation and would have carried a far harsher penalty. Nomura's head office equity sales departments and seven other branches will close for six weeks from Monday. Branches in a further three regions and in Osaka will close for four weeks. Today, Nomura will start contacting most of its five million Japanese private clients and advise them to withdraw funds from the firm if they want to continue trading.

Stockmarket analysts predicted, however, that damage would not be severe for any of the brokers. "Even if all sources of revenue were to be cut for Nomura, it would still only lose 13 per cent of its income," one analyst said.

Nomura Securities has large hidden assets lodged in bank accounts. The income from these amounted to ¥195 billion in fiscal 1990, more than the ¥186.5 billion it made from equity-related business in the same year.

Neither will the penalties affect Nomura's international operations, although the firm has said it will not channel business overseas. Nomura International in London is one of the firm's largest centres not to be affected by the action. However, in a self-disciplinary action, all Nomura board members will take a 20 per cent pay cut, ranging from one year for Hideo Sakamaki, the president, to three months for senior directors.

For the compensation scandal, the president and four directors will take an additional pay cut of 10 per cent for three months. Yoshikazu Kutsuda, a Nomura executive vice president and Junichi Nakano, an executive managing director, handed in their resignations yesterday. The two men were in charge of the equity and domestic sales divisions at the time of the Tokyu violation.

A Nomura spokesman said the firm would take the suspension seriously but expressed relief that this was the end of the investigation. "This is the bottom line. This is a severe penalty and we are taking it but the line has been drawn."

Comment, page 27

Outhwaite accused of 'wilful ignorance'

By Jonathan Prynn

RICHARD Outhwaite, the Lloyd's underwriter whose syndicate has lost £260 million, was in a state of "wilful ignorance" about the risks he was reinsuring when he wrote the 31 "run-off" policies that led to the losses, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Outhwaite is accused by 987 members of the syndicate of negligent underwriting, which he denies. Many of them have lost hundreds of thousands of pounds through the disaster.

Anthony Boswood, QC, on behalf of the names, told Mr Justice Saville that it was not a case of Mr Outhwaite stepping into new and uncharted waters, which courageous underwriters sometimes had to do in assessing a new type of risk, such as the first satellite.

In reinsuring American asbestos risks he was reinsuring the outcome of a known problem about which a great deal had been written and promulgated. The asbestos problem had resulted in by far the gravest problem ever to confront the insurance industry throughout the world, but Mr Outhwaite "kept him-

self in what can only be described as a state of wilful ignorance," Mr Boswood said.

The names, who were all members of marine syndicate 317/661 in 1982, allege negligent underwriting by Mr Outhwaite who was the head of RHM Outhwaite (Underwriting Agencies). They are suing the agency, and the 81 members' agencies that placed the names on the stricken syndicate, for at least £150 million damages. The names include Edward Heath, Robert Maxwell and Tony Jackin.



Outhwaite: asbestos risk

Water industry meets targets

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

THE water and sewerage industry met its investment targets in 1990-1 after minor slippages in 1989-90, Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, said yesterday.

He estimated that the industry's investment programme for the five years after privatisation in 1990 would be £1 billion higher than originally planned. Government requirements had changed,

mainly because of the EC waste water directive, and faster action was being demanded to remove pesticides from drinking water.

Mr Byatt will have new powers over bulk water supply and sewage collection under proposals from the trade department that are expected to be part of the prime minister's Citizen's Charter legislation. The trade

department also proposes to increase the scope for suppliers to compete for business on their borders and for a company to take a licence for new supplies within another's licensed area.

The increase in competition is most likely to affect areas where private water companies already exist within the boundaries of the privatised water and sewerage groups.

Ratners to go downmarket

By Gillian Bowditch

RATNERS, the high street jewellery chain, is going downmarket. The group, which has suffered a 42 per cent fall in its share price over the last five weeks, plans to reposition its three main chains in an attempt to increase profitability and to differentiate between its brands.

Ratners stores will be positioned further towards the bottom end of the market. H Samuel will be positioned in the middle market and will sell a wider range of diamond products. Ernest Jones, formerly Zales, will be the upmarket chain.

The company plans to increase its range of gold products and decrease its range of diamonds. The diamond jewellery to be sold in Ratners will cost between £100 and £300 and will be branded as "Forever Diamonds". These will come with a number of guarantees. At present, Ratners sells some diamond

rings with price tickets of more than £1,000.

Gary O'Brien, the finance director, said the image of the Ratners chain would change gradually over the next year. Window colour and layout will change, with more products on display. Ratners will also experiment with selling costume jewellery.

There may also be an end to the Ratners semi-permanent sale. Mr O'Brien said market research showed a good awareness of Ratners name and its value for money, but he said there was some scepticism about the sale promotions.

Ratners will unveil its Christmas promotion at the end of this month. Managers were told about incentives and promotions yesterday. Mr O'Brien said the promotion would centre on increasing the average spend per customer.

A bullish statement from the group failed to halt the slide in the share price.

The shares lost 11p yesterday to close at 81p, capitalising the group at £237 million, compared with £680 million a year ago.

Mr O'Brien said that in response to investor enquiries, the group confirmed that there had been no change in its operations that would account for the recent share price weakness.

"Over the last ten days, the group has seen some encouraging signs in sales trends in both the UK and the USA. With Christmas accounting for such a significant element in the company's annual results, the group considers that it is premature to make any radical changes to expectations for the outcome for the year," Mr O'Brien said in his statement.

Pilkington to dispose of 747 jobs

By Ross Tieman



Reflections on Europe: Sir Antony Pilkington, chairman of the glass-maker

PILKINGTON, the glass maker, is to shed 747 jobs on Merseyside through a reorganisation of production and the relocation of its European flat and safety glass head office to Brussels.

The move, which Pilkington believes other large British manufacturers may follow, is designed to reduce the company's liability for Advance Corporation Tax as well as to divorce strategic decisions about the development of the European business from management at the plant level.

As Pilkington's European business has grown, so the relative importance of its UK manufacturing operations has diminished. They now account for less than £350 million of sales in a Europe-wide division with annual sales of £1.3 billion.

Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, said: "The new organisation recognises the importance of Europe to our future and the need to manage across national boundaries."

Union leaders reacted angrily. Chris Darke, national officer of the MSF technical union, said: "Pilkington are deserting Britain and British jobs for Europe and the rest of the world."

The worldwide headquarters of the parent company will remain in St Helens, Merseyside, where Pilkington has been based since 1826, and where it has 5,500 employees out of a worldwide workforce of 56,000.

Andrew Robb, Pilkington's finance director, said a new company, Flat and Safety Europe, would employ between 40 and 50 people in Brussels. They will substantially replace 250 employed in head office jobs at St Helens. At the same time, a reduction in the rate at which Pilkington is building plants will cost the jobs of 100 research staff and engineers at St Helens.

The bulk of the job losses will be among production workers at the two float glass sites at St Helens. A new float glass plant, which cost £60 million, will come into production alongside the existing plant at Pilkington's Green-gate site in St Helens next year. The oldest, and smallest plant at nearby Cowley Hill will be shut.

The overall effect will be to increase output at St Helens by 10 per cent. But efficiency gains are expected to cut production costs by about £9 million a year, with a similar saving on costs from the head office relocation.

Comment, page 27

Nadir fruit company to float

By Angela Mackay

CREDITORS owed £1.5 billion by Polly Peck International, the collapsed fresh fruit, electronics and hotels group, agreed to go ahead with the administrators' plan to float Del Monte fresh fruit, rather than sell the business outright.

Michael Jordan, one of the administrators, said the decision to make a public offering had been taken "unanimously" by the creditors' committee after an examination of cash offers received for the business.

He hoped the public offering would be made by the spring. The move should glean at least \$700 million and would probably be followed by a voluntary scheme of arrangement to manage the rest of Polly Peck's assets, which include a stake in Sansui of Japan.

Richard Stone, another administrator, said progress in Cyprus had been "very slow and disappointing", despite the lifting of some injunctions last week, which should allow the administrators to view the accounts of Polly Peck's fruit and packaging businesses on the island. Unless information was forthcoming, legal action would be taken through Turkish courts. A team from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the joint administrators, flew to Cyprus last week to start an investigation.

The role of Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's beleaguered chairman, was played down by the administrators. Mr Jordan said Mr Nadir's role had "significantly waned" since the company was placed in administration 12 months ago.

He said it was "possible but unlikely" that shareholders would receive some money from a scheme of arrangement, but other creditors would probably get about 50p in the pound.

The administrators defended their fees of almost £6 million so far, saying that the project was the most complex they had ever undertaken and that their costs were lower than those incurred by the former management.

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1990

Pilkington floats with the tide

COMMENT

Pilkington is a bright, though heavily recession-tarnished example of British industrial excellence, exploiting world-beating research to build a worldwide business. Since British industrial culture is not moving, Pilkington's way, however, the men of St Helens have had to adjust to the world.

In part, the world, in the shape of Pilkington's critics and potential predators, was always right. The group made a hash of its strategy of developing world positions in other high-technology glass-related products. Many of the small disposals made during the past few months have been simple, good housekeeping: getting out of peripheral or loss-making businesses, as well as cutting the cost base, both in the American eye-care business and in float and safety glass in America.

The cost-cutting went an important stage further yesterday. Closing one float glass plant in St Helens to make room for a new, more efficient one is in part a consequence of recession. British capacity would have risen by a third, whereas

demand from the main customers in building, motors and construction is as flat as the glass coming off the float chamber. Pilkington has also lost market share in Britain where foreign competition has been encouraged more than elsewhere.

Setting up a new Europe-wide glass headquarters in Brussels is now the group's European powerhouse. All these changes may save £75 million a year in overheads, interest and loss-elimination. That is desperately needed for a company whose ongoing profits in the year to end-March may be only around a third of the £314 million earned two years ago before.

There is, however, another sense in which the culture that built Pilkington's successes is having to be adapted. Research is one of the overheads that will come down from last year's £70 million. Some of the high-tech

developments are being cut to sustain immediate profitability.

The move to the Continent at the expense of British jobs also reflects the bias of the British tax system. Pilkington's tax bill will be more than 50 per cent of profits this year, mainly due to unrelieved tax on dividends, because too much of the profit is earned abroad and too much of the costs are borne at home. British companies trying to build international leadership in products or niche businesses face a general problem that the British market is comparatively small even when not hit by recession. They will be penalised or discouraged from anything other than direct export into a single European market if the British company tax system continues to regard the Continent as foreign territory. The government thinks

changes to advance corporation tax must await a general Community deal that is beyond the horizon. But delay merely leaves another handicap to British industry in Europe.

Fitting shame

Japan's financial scandals arouse emotions abroad that go far beyond the reaction to comparable affairs in Britain or America. They are taken to reflect on the country as a whole rather than to bad apples in the financial markets. Hence, the more punishments and humiliations are laid on Nomura and its competitors and on the Ministry of Finance itself, the more the rest of the world seems to think the miscreants are getting off lightly. There is, to be

sure, a special disgrace when the world's biggest securities house is shown to have been taking a leading role in the endemic corruption of the financial system. There is also a feeling that, though heads may roll, they do not roll very far. But the Japanese have got it right in one respect. Swingeing business penalties on firms involved are surely the greatest deterrent in cash and shame. They also much cheaper and quicker than the full majesty of the law.

ERM logic

Sterling was back at the bottom of the ERM table yesterday afternoon for the first time since February 14. In a sense, this was hardly surprising. Political ineptitude seems to be back with a vengeance and the party conference season alone seems to provide sufficient explanation for the pound's

weakness. There is, however, a less alarming analysis. The last time sterling was at the bottom of the ERM was Valentine's Day. By a telling coincidence, the monetary masochists in the Treasury had finally cracked the previous day to allow the first cut in interest rates after ERM entry.

When base rates were cut from 14 to 13.5 per cent on February 13, sterling was at the bottom of the ERM at DM2.8950. But Treasury officials claimed the pound was "strong, despite being low". In the looking glass world of the ERM, this paradox made sense. The lower a currency stands relative to its central parity, the less likely it is to fall further and the more scope it has to rise. When Britain cut interest rates on that basis on February 13, the pound did soon rise.

Today, the Treasury has a greater ambition: to drag interest rates down to German levels or below before the election. The lower the pound lies in the grid, the less speculators will be scared off by low British interest rates, though that will not save the cut long expected to be made during the Tory Party conference.

Accelerate spending on transport to drive down cost of congestion

On the day the Tories debate transport, John Banham points the way forward

THE £2.8 billion improvements planned for the M25, a motorway completed in 1986 for £1 billion, could not be more timely, coming on the eve of this year's public expenditure review. The message to this and any other administration is clear: a short-term and short-sighted view on infrastructure spending is ultimately the more expensive option. Hindsight should now cure this myopia; foresight should commit the government to stronger support for the transport infrastructure.

The statistics give a warning of challenges that must be anticipated now. Road congestion, already costing British business £15 billion a year, puts £10 a week on every household's bills; this could worsen, with road traffic forecast to increase by between 83 and 142 per cent between 1988 and 2025. The problem is compounded by National Audit Office claims that one in four trunk roads will need rebuilding or re-laying within five years.

The government has signalled some acknowledgement of the urgency of the situation. Last year's autumn statement revealed plans to increase real-terms transport expenditure from £4.1 billion in 1990-1 to £4.4 billion in 1993-4. But the latter figure is £200 million less than planned expenditure for 1991-2.

The government must remain committed to reversing the 30 years of underinvestment in infrastructure that has blunted British competitiveness against our continental rivals. For every £100 the United Kingdom government spends per head of population on road and rail, the French



Braking point: a traffic jam on the M25, known as the largest car park in Europe

spend about £150 and the Germans £200. Europe points to the 'need' for action in another way. More than half the UK's exports are destined for the European Community, and our transport system should reflect this importance.

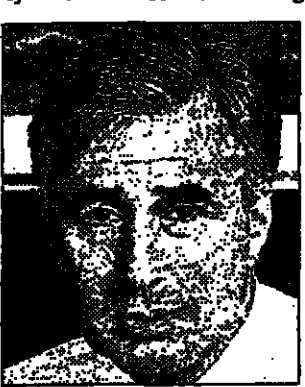
The key date, 1993, marking the completion of both the single European market and the Channel tunnel, should be another spur to plan now. Yet our preparations for these two crucial developments are parlous. International trains will share the same crowded lines that are the bane of Kent commuters' lives. The only British motorway due to serve the tunnel is the M20, which leads back towards the already overcrowded M25.

Britain must respond with a transport strategy encompassing a variety of modes. Supporting this now with high levels of public finance makes economic sense at a time when recession is keeping maintenance and construction prices up to 30 per cent below the levels budgeted for by the Department of Transport.

There has never been a better time for the taxpayer to get value for money in those projects brought forward. Consistency of expenditure also makes long-term sense: ironing out the trough/peak cycle characteristic of the construction industry can minimise its knock-on effect on the

economy as a whole. Central to infrastructure strategy must be a three-pronged resolution of road under-capacity. First, the government must halt the slippage in its road improvement programme. Schemes due for completion by the end of the Nineties will still be started over the next decade, but may take up to 15 years to complete.

Second, road maintenance must be a priority for government expenditure. In 1990-1, the Department of Transport exceeded its targets for motorway maintenance — by one mile. An £18 million rise in the 1991-2 road maintenance budget is likely to be absorbed by the effects of inflation, even in these hard times for the construction industry. Funding must be raised immediately to ensure continuing



Banham: foresight needed

progress on the backlog. Third, the government should go beyond its expanded road building programmes and match the Confederation of British Industry's proposals set out in *Trade Routes to the Future*. Key projects include an east coast motorway, linking the eastern ports and allowing greater access from the North to the Channel tunnel. A south coast motorway would perform much the same function for the southern/south-western seaboard. There is also a need for a home counties orbital motorway as an additional means of overcoming congestion on the M25.

Such road expansion represents expenditure on greater environmental protection, for in countering congestion it helps keep fuel consumption, and so carbon dioxide emissions, down. Even those of the greenest persuasion can scarcely see much health in queues of vehicles with idling engines. But a coherent infrastructure package would recognise that significant road expansion might not be practicable in urban areas, in which case road pricing could offer a preferable method for allocating scarce road space.

Government expenditure should not simply seek to meet the demand for roads; it should also encourage a shift of that demand to other trans-

port modes. That can take at least two forms. One is to maximise the Channel tunnel's potential to transfer freight traffic from road to rail, not through subsidy but investment. That depends on a speedy decision on a high speed link, which must also involve government financial commitment. It depends on full financial support to match the recent extension of the freight facilities grant to companies who want to build their own sidings. Ultimately, it depends on levelling the gradients between road project and rail project investment criteria, so that benefits to the environment are consistently assessed in the same way in both modes.

Another method is to minimise urban congestion. The declining share of passenger traffic carried by public transport, from 18.6 per cent in 1978 to 13.7 per cent in 1988, must be remedied. There must be financial support to improve links between public transport and other modes; government can also assist with the development of light rapid transit schemes where justified. Necessary improvements to the public transport infrastructure must not wait for commuter numbers — and hence revenues — to rise with economic recovery. That is precisely when such improvements must be in progress.

A far-sighted government would maintain spending on the infrastructure in the face of other pressing calls upon the public purse. Now is the time for Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, to drive a hard bargain, break the log jam and forge a positive transport policy. The economic downturn has temporarily halted the increasing demands on our infrastructure; yet it has also given greater value for money on construction projects. We still have a chance to prepare for the challenges that Europe and economic recovery will bring. The question is whether the government and parliament have the vision to seize that chance.

John Banham is director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

TEMPUS

MB-Caradon cash call is a good long-term bet

THE corporate twists and turns through which MB-Caradon has evolved to its present state are hard enough to follow, and indications are that they might not be over yet. The group is touching shareholders for £149 million while sitting on two saleable assets each worth more than that.

Peter Jensen, the chief executive, will not say whether the cheque printing business, now tidied up, or the group's 25 per cent stake in CMB stemming from the demerger of the old Metal Box group are for sale.

Mr Jensen, whose background is building materials and who arrived 18 months ago via the reverse takeover of his Caradon business, says that an influx of cash to cut borrowings would, paradoxically, make such disposals easier: he would not be seen as a forced seller. But any sales will probably come later now, rather than sooner.

As well as raising substantial cash for expansion, divestment would provide a sharper focus on the remaining bathroom fittings and building products operations and remove from the group the dreaded conglomerate label. Admittedly the swap would be for a place in the building sector, but MB-Caradon's profits record compares favourably with those of most of its rivals.

Gearing will be cut from 72 to 17 per cent and, given the group's proven ability to mitigate the impact of the recession, the rights should get away without difficulty. The market evidently takes this view: the share price was off 9p at 240p yesterday but that was still 5p ahead of the theoretical ex-rights price. Shareholders should take up their entitlement but not look for much excitement from the shares in the short term.

An indicated further improvement in net earnings for next year is an attraction in its own right, but the real lure is



Jensen: no word on asset sales

the prospect of BM's dividend growth of 30 per cent being maintained.

November's acquisition of Blackwood Hodge played some part, though it was more due to a genuine organic growth that saw 1991 pre-tax profits rise from £23.1 million to £34.1 million on a turnover up from £228.4 million to £396.4 million.

Debt acquired with the Blackwood deal saw BM with a gearing level of 68 per cent at June 30, but the intention to squeeze the best out of working capital this year could see gearing down to 40 per cent by end-June.

The profits breakdown shows, despite generally tough conditions, that construction a more generous payout policy equipment, manufacturing would further assist BM's and building products each investment case.

managed to advance last year, some divisions more aggressively than others. The annualised geographical spread is now North America 30 per cent, Britain 35 per cent, Europe 10 per cent, and 25 per cent from the rest of the world.

Some trading areas will naturally recover faster from recession than others, but BM should be on course for pre-tax profits of £43 million next year.

At 406p, up 5p, the shares trade on 11.9 times prospective earnings, and remain attractive on profit hopes.

But the 1991 dividend is, however, covered more than eight times by earnings — and conditions, that construction a more generous payout policy equipment, manufacturing would further assist BM's and building products each investment case.

True-blue King flies BA flag

LORD King of Wartaby, embarrassed by erroneous suggestions that if his *Manifesto for Civil Aviation* in the 1990s is adopted by the government he will resume donations to the Conservative party, will, nevertheless, be flying up to Blackpool by helicopter this afternoon to host British Airways' annual late night reception at the Tory conference. King, who says he has no plans to reinstate the £40,000 donation in the foreseeable future, now insists that he cancelled it simply because he was laying off large numbers of staff. "How could I say to them: Oh, and by the way, we're giving away £40,000," he queries? Whether due to embarrassment or not, the noble lord will, however, only be staying in the northern resort for one night, instead of his customary two. Despite an earlier attempt by Conservative Central Office to force him to book into a second-rate hotel, he will, he assures me, be spending that night at the Imperial Hotel, along with other dignitaries. Meanwhile, King reveals that at last week's Labour conference in Brigh-

ON HER visit to Belfast's oldest building, the charitable Clifton House yesterday, the Duchess of Kent may just have glimpsed the premises of an almost equally venerable firm of printers and stationers directly opposite. Messrs Reid and Wright.

Old college tie

THE old school tie network is alive and well. Or the Oxbridge connection at least. Bill Dacombe, aged 57, a former director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, assistant chief executive of Williams & Glyn and then chief executive of Rea Brothers, before launching

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Campbell Lutyens Hudson, a corporate finance boutique, has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Brown Shipley Holdings, the old established merchant bank. Dacombe will replace Lord Farnham, who is to retire after 36 years. He was recruited through Tyack, the head-hunting agency. Richard Addis and Alex Gibson, two Tyack partners, explain that they went to the same Oxford

college as Dacombe, Corpus Christi. "But we were not contemporaries," says Addis. "I am three years older and Alex is younger." There is, however, now talk of closer links being established between Brown Shipley and Campbell Lutyens Hudson — where Dacombe is one of five partners — maybe even a full merger.

Warning light

MICHAEL Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, which is based in Bermuda, has been keeping his lawyers at Freshfields busy in recent weeks. So much so that they delivered a sternly worded six-page letter to Condé Nast, publisher of *GQ*, the glossy magazine for men, rejecting a number of allegations being made in a forthcoming article by Jeff Ferry, an American journalist who has carried out an in-depth investigation of Mr Ashcroft's business affairs. According to Ferry, who once worked for the now defunct, *Business*



magazine and is establishing his own independent television production company specialising in business documentaries, the November edition of *GQ* will hit the streets this week, with his article largely intact.

Hunting hunted

GORDON Hunting, a respected UK institutional equities salesman who until recently was employed by UBS Phillips & Drew, has been snapped up, without a moment's hesitation, by Carr Kitch & Aitken, the UK equities division of WI Carr. "It was too good an opportunity to miss," says Mike Oliver, managing director of the division. "We are absolutely delighted to have him — he is a very good salesman and will fit in with us well." He is due to start work there on November 1. Hunting, aged 42, and deemed to be a little on the old side by the Swiss, despite his track record, is the brother of Richard Hunting, chairman of Hunting PLC, the quoted defence, aviation, oil and technical group formed in 1989 from three family-controlled companies. It made profits of £38.5 million last year.

CAROL LEONARD

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MONEY MARKETS

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Investors should consider expanding abroad, particularly in Spain, now that the British market is depressed, a new report says. Christopher Warman investigates

A British firm, Knight Frank & Rutley, makes out a case for buying and investing in Spanish farms. Clive Hopkins, of the firm's farms department, suggests that with the impending completion of the European Community's internal market and ratification of Spain's membership of the EC, buying in Spain is becoming a good option. He says: "One major fear about buying in Spain in the past has been the trouble you might have taking money out if

Knight Frank & Rutley is handling the sale of several farming estates in Spain, including an estate on a farm inland from Mijas and Fueniguerols on the Costa del Sol. The 265-acre farm has more than 24,000 avocado trees and nearly 1,500 orange trees. The main house has two reception rooms and three bedrooms in two

The estate has a four-bedroom house and a keeper's cottage, and offers partridge, wild boar, duck and fishing. Knight Frank & Rutley sold the estate for about the £650,000 guide price.

To an investor with a portfolio of glass-and-concrete buildings in rain-swept Britain, the appeal of Spain may be hard to resist.

MOTOR SPORT

Mosley optimistic in challenge to president of Fisa

By NORMAN HOWELL

MOTOR racing reaches a crossroads today with what is expected to be a closely fought election for the post of president of Fisa, the sport's international governing body.

For 10 years the position has been held by the autocratic Frenchman, Jean-Marie Balestre, aged 71, who has ruled the sport with an iron hand. But today, in a secret ballot in Paris, he will be challenged by a man who is 20 years his junior.

The very fact that Max Mosley, the son of the late Sir Oswald Mosley, is ready to stand against "Monsieur le President" is news itself. The fact that he has a credible chance of winning is remarkable indeed.

Mosley, aged 51, used to be a racing driver and started the March team in 1969. He subsequently became a legal advisor to and a member of the Formula One constructors association (Foca), a body he helped to set up with Bernie Ecclestone, the vice-president in charge of promotional affairs.

Mosley played a leading role in the struggle for power between Foca and Fisa that ended with him and Ecclestone joining the Fisa establishment, although Ecclestone, who effectively rules Formula One, has been careful not to take sides in the run-up to the

election. A few days ago, Mosley claimed to have the majority of the voting countries on his side. At the time, he felt that 40 out of the 62 nations would back him. Since then the goal posts have been moved somewhat and it now seems that there will be 71 votes in total.

"The indications are that the majority will be behind me," Mosley said yesterday. "It is not just a question of me, but a question of whether the delegates approve of what has been going on. The reason we have got very substantial support is not just me but because they do not like what has been going on."

Mosley's challenge hinges on the fact that Balestre holds down four presidencies in the



Mosley: the challenger

world of motoring and motor racing, both at national and international levels. The Englishman argues that no one could hold so many important positions and give Fisa the attention that is required.

"What happened to Ayrton Senna two years ago in Japan, disgusted me," he said. "That is when I realised that Fisa was not a fair organisation. And that is when I started thinking that I should put myself forward so as to improve matters in motor racing."

This year Mosley has quietly travelled the world to canvass the support of the smaller nations, mostly in Africa and the Far East. Mosley is also the president of the manufacturer's commission within Fisa, and has the ear of the important car manufacturers.

Among other things, Mosley has called for full consultation in controversial areas as well as increased consideration of environmental and financial problems and putting more into other motor sports.

Mosley has promised that he will stand down after a year and seek re-election, and only then stand for the full four years. Balestre, on the other hand, will seem more immovable than ever if he carries the day.

BOXING

Barrett to cut off Dane's advance

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

PAT Barrett, who, according to his manager, Mickey Duff, is capable of beating the best light-welterweights in the world, gets his chance to live up to the claim when he defends his European title against Rached Lawal, of Denmark, at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, tonight.

Duff even believes his man will beat most welterweights. But Barrett has not yet been able to convince British boxing fans that he is really capable of beating someone like Julio Cesar Chavez, the triple world champion from Mexico, who has lost count of the number of opponents he has knocked out, certainly well over 60.

Twenty of Barrett's 30 victories out of 32 contests have ended inside the distance, but for one reason or another — weight problems, bad hands, trainer problems — he has not looked the part, even against some moderate opposition. Indeed, one American journeyman, Dwayne Swift, made him look decidedly ordinary.

This time, with all his problems behind him and his friend and trainer, Brian Hughes, back in his corner, he is expected to look world class. Lawal should be made for him.

Whereas Barrett is a big light-welter, the Dane, originally

from Sierra Leone, is small for the weight, having moved up from super-featherweight. Barrett is happier against incoming fighters. Lawal is just such a man, a pressure fighter.

Having had little trouble dealing with the seven British opponents he has met, including Lloyd Christie and Robert Hartin (who was stopped in four rounds but went the distance with Barrett), Lawal is unlikely to change his approach, particularly as he knows Barrett can be floored. The champion had to get off the canvas to stop Mark McCraith.

While Lawal has never been knocked out, he has been stopped — by Daniel Lomas, of France, and Manning Galloway, of the United States, the World Boxing Organisation champion. So Barrett will be hoping to look better than Lomas and Galloway, especially with his home crowd behind him.

Being a bigger man naturally, Barrett's punches should prove too heavy for Lawal, whose challenge, determined though it will be, should not last beyond the first five rounds.

At Wally Swift Jr, the British light-middleweight champion, is to challenge John David Jackson, of the United States, for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham next month.

The bout is provisionally scheduled to take place on November 30, but the date has yet to be finalised because Pat Brogan, the promoter, is still trying to secure television coverage.

Swift said: "This will be a dream come true for me. It makes it extra special to have the chance to fight for the world title in my home city."

Swift, who won the British championship when he stopped Enslay Bingham, of Manchester, in March, successfully defended the title when he outpointed Tony Collins in July.



Barrett: title defence

NETBALL

England claim easy win

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ENGLAND will face the West Indies next month fresh from a comprehensive 63-28 victory over Canada at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on Sunday.

It was a match that featured two sisters, Joan Bryan, of England, and Sharon Butler, the Canadian centre. The pair, who originate from the West Indies, were separated as infants, and met up again only by chance when playing for opposing teams during the 1987 world tournament in Scotland.

The three-match series against the visiting West Indies — who are ranked third in the world and arrived in England on October 28 — begins with a fixture at Wembley on November 2 and is followed by two further games, in Gateshead and Sheffield.

Barbara Taylor, Surrey's 6ft 11in goal shooter, who made her first-team debut at the age of 39 last season, began the new English Counties League programme in fine fettle on Saturday. Taylor's tally of 55 goals from 59 attempts helped the champions to overcome Birmingham 77-62, with Sheila Edwards, the former England captain, claiming Surrey's other goals.

Lucia Sdao's decision to move from Derbyshire in order to take up a teaching post in north London delighted Middlesex, who have snapped up the England international. But Sdao faced a tough initiation at King's Cross, where she was faced by her England colleague, Fiona Murray, the Essex Metropolitan union defender, who enjoyed the last laugh as Essex won 44-39.

Bedfordshire put newly promoted Northants in their place with a 43-42 victory, achieved despite an injury to Justine Saunders, the Bedfordshire goalkeeper, while Cheshire beat Humber 50-37.

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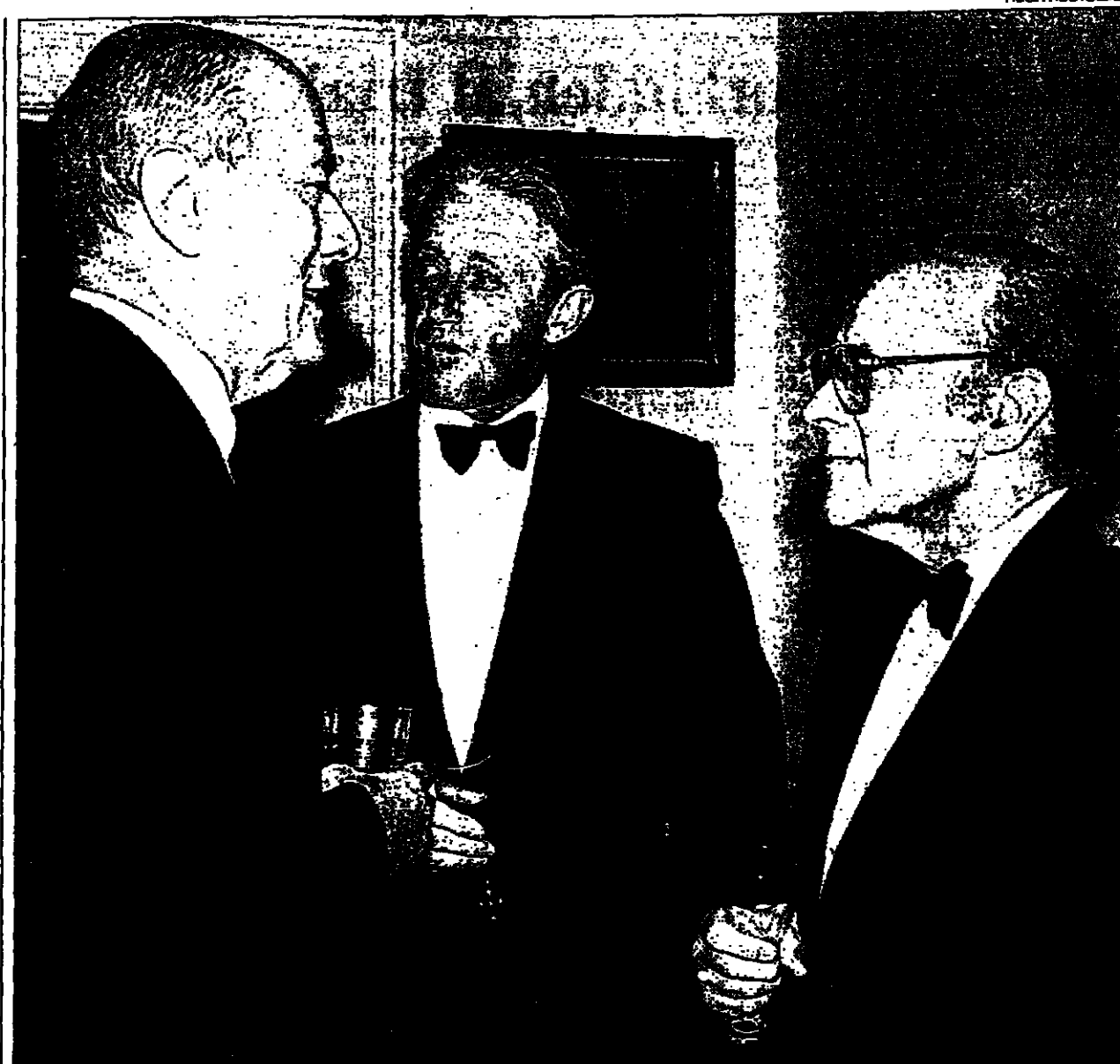
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Guest of honour: Michael Seely, left, in after-dinner conversation with Guy Harwood, centre, and Lord Oaksey

Racing salutes Michael Seely

By RICHARD EVANS

AFTER dashing back from the Arc from where he had filed around 2,000 words to *Horse and Hound*, Michael Seely was crashing out a feature for his local newspaper yesterday before scribbling the latest news on the Breeders' Cup for *The Times*. A game of squash was scheduled for tea-time.

So to say that the best loved newspaper racing correspondent in the modern era has retired and is opting for the easy life, is akin to Lester Piggott claiming he has given up riding.

Of course, the recent weekend in Paris did not pass without incident. It would have been out of character if it had.

Having written his golden words on a newly acquired desk top computer, he had to send

them to London. With the clock striking midnight on Sunday, Seely was to be found on his hands and knees with a Parisian hotel porter unplugging the entire telephone switchboard system. His copy reached its destination safely. The effect on the French capital's telephone network is not known.

The story will sit alongside a legion of others, often involving unfortunate episodes with false teeth, motor cars, or tape recorders. Seely has the effect of Uri Geller, the equipment is never quite the same again.

Although his copy is by muddle, out of chaos and by tight deadline, the end result is classical prose, the envy of any journalist.

"Quite simply, day after day, he has written us off the page," Lord Oaksey told guests at a

recent dinner held in the Jockey Club rooms at Newmarket to mark Seely's retirement.

The evening was hosted by Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, and guests included Lord Harrington, senior steward of the Jockey Club, Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute, John Dunlop, Dick Hern, Luca Cumani and Guy Harwood.

Perhaps the drive and passion which keep Seely so busy are derived, in part, from his late entry into journalism. After leaving Eton he had a brief and none too glorious skid with the Grenadiers before embarking on a series of unsuccessful jobs and enterprises. By his late 30s he was working as a clerk at the Raleigh cycle factory and heading nowhere fast.

A chance meeting between his sister, Cherry, and Michael

Silley in a pub at Tarporey was to change his life. Silley, senior northern race reader on *Raceform*, offered Seely an assistant's job.

"I loved it," Seely once recalled. "Gradually, I became a journalist. I was passionate about the form book and still am. I learnt to write about the horses I saw and now I also write about the people." In 1975 he joined *The Times* as northern correspondent before being promoted to racing correspondent for the paper. He was twice racing journalist of the year.

Now aged 65, but with the spirit and drive of a person half his years, he has technically retired. Like most other things in life, Seely brings a new meaning to retirement. He will continue to write us off the page for sometime yet.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Redcar

Going good to firm
2.15 (7) 1. Military Export (M Wood, 16-11)
2. Captain Ken (S J, 16-11) 3. Ashtan (B J)
4. Pansy (S J, 16-11) 5. N. Hart's Legend
6. Shrewsbury (S J, 16-11) 7. J. Wilson
8. 22-20. 9. 27-30. 10. 25-30. 11. 25-30. 12. 25-30. 13. 25-30. 14. 25-30. 15. 25-30. 16. 25-30. 17. 25-30. 18. 25-30. 19. 25-30. 20. 25-30. 21. 25-30. 22. 25-30. 23. 25-30. 24. 25-30. 25. 25-30. 26. 25-30. 27. 25-30. 28. 25-30. 29. 25-30. 30. 25-30. 31. 25-30. 32. 25-30. 33. 25-30. 34. 25-30. 35. 25-30. 36. 25-30. 37. 25-30. 38. 25-30. 39. 25-30. 40. 25-30. 41. 25-30. 42. 25-30. 43. 25-30. 44. 25-30. 45. 25-30. 46. 25-30. 47. 25-30. 48. 25-30. 49. 25-30. 50. 25-30. 51. 25-30. 52. 25-30. 53. 25-30. 54. 25-30. 55. 25-30. 56. 25-30. 57. 25-30. 58. 25-30. 59. 25-30. 60. 25-30. 61. 25-30. 62. 25-30. 63. 25-30. 64. 25-30. 65. 25-30. 66. 25-30. 67. 25-30. 68. 25-30. 69. 25-30. 70. 25-30. 71. 25-30. 72. 25-30. 73. 25-30. 74. 25-30. 75. 25-30. 76. 25-30. 77. 25-30. 78. 25-30. 79. 25-30. 80. 25-30. 81. 25-30. 82. 25-30. 83. 25-30. 84. 25-30. 85. 25-30. 86. 25-30. 87. 25-30. 88. 25-30. 89. 25-30. 90. 25-30. 91. 25-30. 92. 25-30. 93. 25-30. 94. 25-30. 95. 25-30. 96. 25-30. 97. 25-30. 98. 25-30. 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[illegible]

1. *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 12228) was grown in Tryptone Soy Broth (TSB) (Difco) at 37°C. Cells were harvested at mid-log phase (OD₆₀₀ = 0.5) and washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (pH 7.4). Cells were then resuspended in PBS and sonicated using a Branson 250 sonifier (Branson Ultrasonics, Danbury, CT) for 10 min. The cell suspension was then centrifuged at 14,000g for 10 min and the supernatant was removed. The pellet was resuspended in PBS and sonicated for 10 min. The supernatant was removed and the pellet was resuspended in PBS. The final supernatant was then centrifuged at 14,000g for 10 min and the supernatant was removed. The final supernatant was then centrifuged at 14,000g for 10 min and the supernatant was removed. The final supernatant was then centrifuged at 14,000g for 10 min and the supernatant was removed.

FOOTBALL

Shreeves expects midfield to pass test of credibility

By LOUISE TAYLOR

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's credibility is at stake when they face Swansea City in the second round, second leg of the Rumbelows Cup at White Hart Lane tonight.

The first division side trails by 1-0 from the first leg at the Vetch Field to the team presently propelling up the third division, and particularly in the light of Swansea's 9-0 Cup Winners' Cup humiliation at the hands of Monaco last week, it is expected to redeem itself in style.

Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham manager, yesterday said: "We must erase embarrassment and restore credibility."

Tottenham have scored 21 times in 15 matches this season but Gary Lineker, with 12, and Gordon Durie, with five, have been responsible for 17 of them. Shreeves said: "Obviously I am happy with

what the front two have produced but, being greedy, I want that, plus the midfield players chipping in as well. We have had two disappointingly poor performances recently — in the first leg of the European game against Hajduk Split and the Rumbelows game at Swansea, and I want to make up for them by scoring lots of goals tonight."

Maintaining credibility is also on Graeme Souness's mind as Liverpool prepare to take Stoke City, of the third division, at the Victoria Ground, with the score at 2-2 from the first leg at Anfield. So upset was Souness by that setback that, at the age of 38, the Liverpool manager took his place in the midfield for Liverpool reserves last Saturday. But the likelihood of Stoke players tending bruised legs was reduced when the

Football League said that Souness was barred from playing.

A spokesman said: "Graeme Souness cannot play League or League Cup football again. He received a payment from our provident fund and signed a declaration that he will not play football again. There is no way that could change. He can't pay the money back and play."

Lon Macart, the manager of Stoke City, said yesterday: "We will never send Liverpool dizzy with our game. There is an enormous gulf between us, so to stand any chance we have got to fog ourselves to death and just hope they are not firing on all cylinders. But we are in a no-lose situation. There is no pressure on Liverpool and we expect to be supported by a crowd of 21,000."

Ian Wilkinson is poised to make his debut in goal for Manchester United, who must protect a 3-0 first-leg lead at Cambridge United. Ahead 18, Wilkinson is afforded his chance because Peter Schmeichel is on international duty, Gary Walsh has a virus, and Jim Leighton has an eye infection.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said: "Ian is an excellent young goalkeeper with a very safe pair of hands. He has impressed everyone at Old Trafford and there will be no problems about playing him. But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels at Cambridge."

Paul Parker and Neil Webb are still sidelined by hamstring and knee injuries, respectively, while Mike Phelan is absent due to damaged ribs. He is replaced by Lee Martin.

It will be Bryan Robson's last match before he joins up with the England squad for next Wednesday's European championship qualifier against Turkey. Graham Taylor, the England manager, will be keeping everything crossed that Robson emerges unscathed. The United captain is likely to come into direct opposition with Richard Wilkins, the impressive Cambridge midfielder player, whom John Beck, the club manager, has said "will be the next Bryan Robson."

Shreeves laments Gascoigne's loss

PAUL Gascoigne emerges today from his latest stay in West London's Prince George hospital, with the Tottenham manager, Peter Shreeves, admitting the club cannot replace his genius.

Gascoigne, whose injured knee was damaged again in a Newcastle nightclub, will return to the care of the club physiotherapist, John Sheridan.

Shreeves said: "Whatever he does off the field, the boy is a genius on it. Apart from anything else, I'm very concerned that he scored 18 goals for the team from midfield last season and so far we've got only one from that whole department this time."

Gascoigne will pick up his recovery programme, aiming to prove his fitness for the £5.5 million move to Lazio at the end of May.

Shreeves said: "Nothing has changed with the move. Provided he shapes up for a fitness test on May 31, he will still go. I can't possibly put any time on when he might kick a ball for us before he goes, although I'm obviously not not to have worked with him so far. But I knew the situation before I walked back through the door here."

Heart of Midlothian last night signed the Raith Rovers

forward, Ian Ferguson, for £100,000. Ferguson, aged 23, will give up his job as a computer software engineer to go full-time.

The 6ft 11in forward scored 25 goals in 80 appearances for Raith, and Jordan said: "He has pace and mobility as well as being good in the air. He gives us valuable cover up front."

Ferguson will link up with his former manager, Frank Connor, who is Jordan's assistant at Tynecastle.

Jordan includes the newcomer in his squad to face Aberdeen at Tynecastle tomorrow — a game in which Hearts could be without two key players in Dave McPherson and Ian Baird.

McPherson is struggling to shake off a knee injury and Baird, the forward, injured an ankle at the weekend.

McPherson's fitness is of particular interest to the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh, who desperately needs the tall centre back in Romania next week.

Jordan said: "We are slightly more optimistic. There is no swelling in the knee joint and the injury is not as serious as we first thought. He has a chance of being ready."

Aberdeen will be without Hans Gillhaus, their forward.

Auxerre opt against switch

Auxerre — Auxerre have finally decided to play their UEFA Cup match against Liverpool at their own Abbe Deschamps ground and not at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Jean-Pierre Soisson, the Auxerre mayor and member of parliament, asked for the match to be played at Paris because he was worried about trouble from English supporters. But only 1,500 tickets will be allocated to Liverpool for the first-leg match on October 23 and Jean-Claude Hamel, the club president, said it would be asking too much of supporters to travel 80 miles for a home match. The ground has a capacity of 22,000. (AFP)

Rome — Italy are expected to make changes for the European

championship qualifying match with the Soviet Union in Moscow on Saturday that they must win to retain hopes of reaching next year's finals.

The Italians, beaten by unfancied Norway in June, trail the undefeated Soviet Union by four points in group three although they have a game in hand. A Soviet victory would put the 1988 European championship runners-up into the final.

Injuries have deprived Italy of skilled players — Roberto Baggio and Roberto Donadoni, both absent from the 19-man squad named by the coach, Azzeglio Vicini.

Vicini could also leave out-form players such as Salvatore

Schillaci and Roberto Mancini on the bench.

Gianluca Vialli, of Sampdoria, is expected to join up in mid-October, a fast winger who attacks from deep positions, and Ruggiero Rizzitelli, of AS Roma.

Vialli, sent off in the recent defeat by Bulgaria, will serve a one-match suspension in Italy's next match outside the European championship.

In midfield, Vicini will be pinning his hopes on the league form of Francesco De Napoli and Massimo Crippa, who have helped Naples to reach the top of the first division, and the creative skills of Giuseppe Giannini, of Roma. (Agencies)



Staying on the sidelines: the League says Graeme Souness cannot play for Liverpool

Impey pays the price for Torquay's poor crowds

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE managerial sacking season does not usually begin in earnest until Christmas, but John Impey was yesterday dismissed by Torquay United, of the third division. Wes Saunders, a defender, aged 28, will take over as player-coach, with John Uzzell, a full back, acting as his assistant, until the club appoint a new manager.

In June Impey guided the club out of the fourth division via the play-offs, but with Torquay second from bottom of the third and attendances plummeting, Mike Bateson, the chairman, took the decision to dispense with his services.

Bateson yesterday said: "Personally I deplore the practice of sacking managers willy-nilly, despite the fact that two (Dave Smith was the other) have been sacked in the 18 months I have been here."

"They say that players get managers the sack, but in this case it is the supporters. Crowds have dropped from 4,300 to 2,000 and at our last home game there were only 1,500 paying customers. If it goes on like that, the club will not survive."

In the meantime, Saunders and Uzzell will have full responsibility for team affairs and the administrative side will be handled by myself and Dave Turner, the club secretary."

Jimmy Case, the Bournemouth midfielder player, is favourite to fill the vacancy.

Dennis Roff, the Bristol Rovers coach, has been asked to continue as caretaker-manager for the next two games after starting with a win against Middlesex, the second division leaders, last Saturday. Rovers dismissed Martin Dobson as manager last Friday.

Nicky Marker, the Plymouth Argyle captain, yesterday handed in a written transfer request stating that he wants first division football. It will be considered at an emergency board meeting tomorrow when the financially troubled second division club could approve a £2 million takeover by Steve Tiller, a local businessman.

The demolition of the Cowshed stand at Wolverhampton Wanderers and the building of a new £2 million North Bank will start on October 21. The new

stand at Molineux will include 5,200 seats on four tiers. The work is expected to be completed by mid-May.

Paul Kee, the Oxford United goalkeeper, has withdrawn from the Northern Ireland squad to play Austria in Belfast on October 16 because of a fractured toe.

Tommy Wright, of Newcastle United, will deputise.

Mike Phelan, of Manchester United, who injured ribs against Liverpool on Sunday, will be fit to return to the first team within a fortnight, but Craig Short, the Nottingham Forest defender, will be sidelined for longer with a cracked ankle-bone, as will Bobby Davison, of Leeds United, who yesterday underwent a cartilage operation.

County yesterday put Paul Harding, their midfield player, on the transfer list. Harding, aged 27, signed from Barnet for £60,000 a year ago but he cannot settle in Nottingham.

Newcastle United hope to complete the signing of Gavin Maguire, a central defender, from Portsmouth on a month's loan with a view to a permanent transfer.

EQUESTRIANISM

Risk pays off for Simpson and her fast learner

By JENNY MACARTHUR

RHONA Simpson, an international hockey player, from Ayrshire, achieved the most significant win of her show jumping career at Wembley yesterday when she and Maybe This Time won the Radiol Senior Newcomers championship on the opening day of the Horse of the Year Show.

Simpson, a physical education student who plays hockey for Scotland's under-21 side, started riding the seven-year-old gelding two years ago. "He had done nothing then," Simpson said, "but he's a quick learner."

That was evident in his fast, authoritative round against the clock.

Simpson, who first came to Wembley in 1987 as a member of the winning Eglinton mounted games team, was eighth to go in the jump-off. She had watched the quick round of the favourite, Matthew Lanni, on Secret Pride. "I knew I had to take a risk to win," she said.

David Mitchell, her trainer and stepfather, advised cutting inside the combination to fence eight, the gate. Simpson duly obliged, cutting 1.75 seconds off Lanni's time.

Amy Barton put up a strong challenge on Maganzer and finished ahead of Lanni to take second place.

The win brings Simpson's winnings to more than £1,400 this year. "He's already lived up to his name," Simpson said. Her first horse died of a twisted gut and second one she had intended to buy failed to pass the vet.

The win also justifies the

difficult decision Simpson had to make earlier this summer. She was selected to go to the World Student Games in Sheffield but relinquished her place in order to concentrate on her riding.

Later in the afternoon Polly Brown, on another aptly named horse, I'm A Fiddle, had a comfortable win in the first part of the National Grade A championship.

Brown and her partner, Keith Tollock, bought the horse for £950 as a "neurotic, difficult four-year-old". After some unsuccessful forays into the show jumping ring, she eventually found the key.

"You can't put him under any real pressure," she said. "We treat him like a pony and keep him out in the field."

Yesterday, cheered on by pupils from her riding school at Chessington, Brown showed more than eight seconds ahead of the runner-up, Paul Nunn, on the less aptly named Nunn Better. Brown hopes to repeat her form in the second part of the Grade A championship today. The top five from the two sections qualify to compete at the show for the rest of the week.

RESULTS: Radiol Senior Newcomers championship: Rhona Simpson (Ayrshire) on Maybe This Time (7.58.00), 2. Maganzer (Ayrshire) on Amy Barton (8.35.00), 3. Secret Pride (Ayrshire) on Matthew Lanni (8.54.00), National Grade A championship: Section A: 1. I'm A Fiddle (Ayrshire) on Polly Brown (8.35.00), 2. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 3. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 4. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 5. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 6. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 7. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 8. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 9. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 10. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 11. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 12. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 13. Nunn Better (Ayrshire) on Keith Tollock (8.54.00), 14. 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Webb's record could have been much more

England fail to make Italy pay the penalty

England 36
Italy 6

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

YOU must take your heroes as you find them: Jonathan Webb's 24 points against Italy at Twickenham yesterday in the Rugby World Cup constituted a national record while Brian Anderson's 37 penalties or free kicks awarded against the Italians must constitute a record of some kind, however unwanted.

Let us take the positive side of this Pool 1 game first: it was vital for England to dominate from the outset and they did, by scoring 15 points in as many minutes before proceeding, if not entirely serenely, to victory by four goals and four penalty goals to a goal. In doing so they put their World Cup ship back in the water after the disappointment of losing to New Zealand.

Having laid the foundation, however, they were unable to build as high an edifice as they might have wished. A 30-point margin is comfortable enough but more were there for the taking — which is where Anderson, the Scottish referee, comes in. At last an official has had the courage not to ignore persistent infringements for the sake of creating a spectacle.

Referees are there to create a framework in which players can play. If one side, however solid their tackling, persists in doing so from an illegal position, it is right they should be penalised. Owen Doyle awarded the United States 20 penalties (as against eight to Italy) at Otley on Saturday and yesterday Anderson caned Italy 37-10, most of them for offside in the backs or going over the top in the forwards.

An England forward,



RUGBY
WORLD CUP

returning from Otley at the weekend, expressed pleasure that Doyle had been so firm, having played against the Italians where they continuously put themselves on the wrong side of the ball. Anderson took the same process a stage further and, if Italy do not learn from the experience, they have nobody to blame but themselves.

The pity of it was that England were not able to hand out the punishment themselves. Webb could have broken every scoring record in the book had England chosen to kick penalties but, 30 points clear nine minutes into the second half, Carling opted for variations, including attacking scrums: none of them worked, save once, when a quick tap saw Moore, Redman and Guscott work space for Webb to slide over for England's fourth try, his conversion breaking Simon Hodgkinson's record of 23 points against Argentina last year.

Italy made hardly more than two excursions into the opposing 22 so England's return of six points in the final half-hour represents a most meagre return.

Far more satisfactory was England's ability to create favourable scrumming situations, which had eluded them against the All Blacks. In that respect Teague was the player of the day, so often did he get his hands on the ball and take England forward.

England started well when Webb was obstructed in pursuit of his own high kick, which left him with a 23-metre penalty in the third minute. His measured goal proved the forerunner to seven more, only one kick going wide of an upright just before the interval (when England led 24-0).

A neat back-row move saw Richards break to the blind side of a scrum and Hill's pass gave Underwood scope to break through Troiani's tackle for his 39th international try. Richards, who has been the target for some criticism, demonstrated on the day the deftness of his hands rather than the strength of his body.

But the day could hardly be taken from Webb. His catching and kicking were a pleasure to watch, as well as his goal-kicking. Confidence is a quality not lacking in Guscott, and he marked the day with a try in each half.

The first, in injury-time before the interval, was made for him by Carling's powerful break. The second came when Dominguez, under heavy pressure, cleared only to Webb, and Andrew sent Guscott purling away towards the south-east corner, where he eased his way outside Bonomi.

The minutes including and immediately following half-time incorporated the tournament's first streaker, the loss of Troiani and of Probyn, the England light-head prop damaging a knee as he drove towards the Italian line. Rendall came on for his first international since March 1990 and in time for Italy's try, the product of enthusiastic running and support play by the backs, with Marcello Cuttitta scoring. Dominguez's conversion sustained his 100 per cent goal-kicking record in the tournament.



Scoring surge: there is no stopping Webb as he heads for a try in his record points haul against Italy yesterday

Probyn certain to be rested

By DAVID HANDS

JEFF Probyn will almost certainly be among those rested for England's final Pool 1 game of the World Cup, against the United States at Twickenham on Friday. The light-head prop damaged ligaments in his left knee during the game against Italy and

Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said he was "unlikely to play".

Probyn believes the injury to be insufficient to keep him out but there is little point in England, whose XV will be announced today, risking him when they have a fully-fit Gary Pearce available.

England's victory proved a

frustrating experience because of the constant stream of penalties against the Italians. "We wanted to play a fluid game," Will Carling, the captain, said. "It would really have done us no good to kick about 20 penalties and at the end of the day we literally practised scrums in certain positions."

Brian Anderson, the Scottish referee, said: "I did consider sending off an Italian player for persistent infringement. Certainly, I have never awarded so many penalties against one team in the whole of my refereeing career at any level."

All Black try spree, page 38

League moves towards peace

By PETER BALL

HAVING lost the war, the Football League is beginning to prepare for the peace. A reconstituted management committee met at Lytham St Anne's yesterday for the first time since the walk-out by first division representatives a month ago heralded the final split in the League.

Things were more amicable yesterday. For the moment the League is still being administered by Arthur Sandford, the chief executive, and Ian Watt, the receiver appointed by the court when the committee became inquorate, but the first division's return means the management committee will reassume control until the separation becomes final at the end of the season.

Yesterday's business concentrated on facilitating the return to normality. The more important steps towards reforming the League structure will begin on Thursday, when the second, third and fourth division clubs meet.

There will clearly be some contentious issues to consider, with the principle of one club, one vote bound to create considerable discussion. Sandford, however, has not suggested that Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, should be involved as a member of the working party, and doubtless there will be some voices who will urge his inclusion.

Graham invests in Carter

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE guessing game surrounding George Graham's first-choice attacking line-up took a fresh twist yesterday when the Arsenal manager signed Jimmy Carter from Liverpool for £500,000.

It was only in January that the pacy winger, aged 25, left Millwall for Anfield in an £800,000 move, but four weeks later Kenny Dalglish resigned as manager and Carter, who scored 13 goals in 127 appearances for Millwall, subsequently failed to establish himself in the first team.

Having acquired Ian Wright from Crystal Palace for £2.5 million a fortnight ago, Graham has seven forwards — Carter, Wright, Alan Smith, Paul Merson, Kevin Campbell, Anders Limpar, and Perry Groves — and Carter's arrival is unlikely to be welcomed by Groves, who has struggled for a first-team place. A question mark must also be placed against the future of Limpar, Arsenal's Swedish international winger, who has repeatedly angered Graham by placing country before club.

Carter, who began his career with Crystal Palace before joining Queen's Park Rangers on a free transfer, and then Millwall for £15,000 in 1987, said: "It is just brilliant. My father and all my friends are Arsenal supporters. I grew up just round the corner from Highbury and stood on the terraces from the age of eight. This is the one club I have always wanted to join."

Dalglish is tempted by Blackburn

THE prolonged attempts of Blackburn Rovers to persuade Kenny Dalglish to return to football management may succeed in the next few days (Ian Ross writes).

Although Dalglish, the former Liverpool manager, has yet to announce whether he intends to assume control at the second division club, the indications are that he is seriously considering an offer to succeed Don Mackay, who was dismissed five weeks ago.

Dalglish, aged 40, retired from professional football in late February for personal reasons. If he does decide to accept Blackburn's offer of a highly lucrative, long-term contract, Liverpool will demand in excess of £400,000 in compensation.

United's profit, page 26

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Canadians seek to secure place in quarter-finals

From CHRIS THAU IN GRENOCLE

IF EVERYTHING goes according to plan, the Canadian plan of course, the identity of the second quarter-finalist in Pool 4 will be known tonight, when Canada play Romania here.

The Canadians dropped five players from the side that beat Fiji, the seeds, over the weekend — a rather unusually large number from a winning side. Whereas some of the changes were expected, given the poor performances of the discarded players, such as Chris Tynan, the scrum half, who was occasionally careless and often hasty, others, like the decision to drop Al Charron, the marauding flanker, are downright incomprehensible.

"We need more speed in the back row," Ian Birtwell, the coach, said, referring to the inclusion of Bruce Breen at the expense of Charron. Charron was perhaps the outstanding forward in the win against Fiji and his ferocious drives in the midfield as well as his forthright defence around the fringes may be sorely missed. Mike Luke, the Canadian manager, maintained that the changes would not affect the quality of the side. He could be right, though one can not escape the feeling that by dropping a third of team which beat Fiji, the Canadians may have affected their confidence.

The Romanians, on the other hand, have been involved in a confidence-building programme after the crushing defeat at the hands of France.

Peter Ianusievici, the

Romanian coach, said: "The boys were shattered by the defeat so we have been trying to rebuild their morale. At the game analysis I tried to emphasise their positive achievements during the first 60 minutes."

"I used a convenient excuse to stop the meeting at that point to give them a feeling that they had accomplished something after all. I discussed the shortcomings of each player individually with each of them afterwards."

"We played against one of the strongest sides in the tournament and our achievement of keeping them in check for such a long time will be seen in a different light as the tournament progresses."

"Canada is a different proposition though. We are playing at our own level. The pressure is different. Against them we can play a different type of game. We have come to the World Cup to win two matches in the pool," he said. □ Ray Williams, the World Cup tournament director, praised the standard of fair play yesterday, as the tournament moved into the second round.

"I am very impressed with the standards of discipline shown by the players," he said. Warnings by referees have been kept to a minimum so far and there has yet to be a single sending off.

ROMANIA: M Dumitru, C Bescu, A Lungu, N Fulne, N Razos, N Năstăsescu, D Năstăsescu, C Căpănuș, I Doga, H Dumitrescu (capt). CANADA: M Wyatt (capt), P Palmer, C Stewart, J Lecky, S Stewart, G Ross, J Gray, S Evans, P Sirochoda, D Jackson, B Breen, R Van der Grint, N Hadley, G MacGibbon, G Ernie.

American underdogs triumph in defeat

PLUCKY little United States. Their 46-6 defeat by New Zealand at Gloucester yesterday in Pool 1 of the Rugby World Cup had, at times, something of the air of triumph about it. Underdog triumph, of course. I seem to travel from one World Cup to the next, constantly forced into writing about the United States as a brave little nation of gallant triers. This is an odd experience, to say the least.

Yesterday they took on the mightiest team in world rugby with all the underdog spirit you could hope for in any sport. They did all the usual team spirit stuff, they got stuck in, they went down fighting, they refused to be overawed. They did everything you expect when Wycombe Wanderers play Liverpool. They didn't do quite as well as Cameroon did against Argentina, but they did their damndest.

They held the All Blacks scoreless for the first 17 minutes, tireless until 25 minutes. Only at the end, when they were knackered, did New Zealand, arguably the fittest rugby team in the world, start to have things their own way, and rolled in a few cheap scores.

All of which leaves me praising the United States, the most powerful nation in the world, for possessing the little man's courage in adversity. Just as I did when they played Italy in the Stadio Olimpico in the football World Cup last summer. "We couldn't compete in skill, but we could compete in terms of attitude," Gary Hein, who played on

the wing for the Americans yesterday, said. "You just have to reach down and grab your guts."

The United States has long been the most insular sporting nation. The Super Bowl winners are called "world champions", yet no team outside the United States takes part. The World Series this year actually has a Canadian team in the last four sensation. In all its mainstream sport, the United States is triumphantly inward-looking.

But in England, we have been used to national teams and international competition for years. These are the high spots of any sporting year. The United States has always been outside all this. It has been these minority pursuits, rugby and football, that have abandoned the traditional insularity of American sport. They are going out into the world, and expecting to get dominated. They enter competitions like this Rugby World Cup in all humility — and this is not always the spirit in which an American goes abroad.

But aeroplanes and television have changed sport. There is more international competition than ever, and the United States has got swept up by the sheer force of it. This is only the second Rugby World Cup. The Cricket World Cup, another recent invention, follows in the new year. No United States involvement here: not yet, anyway.

But the football World Cup finals have exploded to a 24-team format, and, of course, they will be held in the United States in 1994. The United States is more a part of the rest of the sporting world than ever before. The moral of this is, surely, that no island is an island any more. And also, that all games are now world games.

All of which brings us to the odd spectacle of the United States losing gracefully to a nation of sheepfarmers on a patch of grass in the middle of the English outback in a match that will be watched by millions all over the world. This is evidence not of any newfound humility among the Americans, but of the pan-galactic nature of modern sport.

The United States spent last year trying to sell its own oval ball game to a willing world. Not even American football is fully American any more. The World League of American Football failed in the United States, succeeded in the world, in London, Frankfurt and even Barcelona.

The world's appetite for sport, for sport across the national borders, across the time-zones and across the oceans is still increasing. It affects the old nations of Europe, the emerging nations of the Third World, and even the great self-involved, all-repelling nation of the dollar-bill and the forward pass as well. When will it reach saturation point? Not yet, that's for sure.

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